

FREE

Kent on Sunday

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Mid Edition No 616

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Paramount's £2bn park edges nearer

More details revealed with hopes work will start in 2016

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Farage told to steer clear of seat

Gloves are off in battle to become Thanet MP

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Will Paramount plan be the blockbuster we all want it to be?

THERE are few projects in this county which are received with quite the enthusiasm which has greeted plans for the ambitious Paramount-branded entertainment park in Swanscombe.

Perhaps it is because it promises to plonk a world-class entertainment facility on our doorsteps that unlike almost all other schemes, everyone speaks of it with a thrill in their voice.

But then this is what regeneration of an area is all about. Taking a patch of disused land, previously an industrial zone, and transforming it into a fun and jobs factory. If it works it will be something we should all be very proud of.

The big issue there, of course, is whether it does actually get built. As much as we like a development which offers so much, we also still have a healthy pessimistic approach to projects that sound a little too good to be true.

I think it is fair to say we'll

believe it as and when we see it - but it is extremely encouraging.

This week the people behind the scheme emerged to put a little meat on the bones of the bare details we've been chewing over since it was first unveiled two years ago. See our news pages for more information.

Elsewhere, we take a look at a number of major schemes which this week were told they were going to get big chunks of Government cash to fund.

It would seem unlikely a new junction of the M20, or a town centre gyratory will create quite the buzz of the Paramount plans, but they may well prove no less valuable to boosting the local economy in the years to come. Or, of course, enrage those who see them simply as more concrete on this glorious countryside of ours.

And, finally, we were at the Kent County Show on Friday - read our report inside.

Have a great weekend.



Editor **Chris Britcher**



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Glimpse into wonders of £2bn Paramount project

By Chris Britcher

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THE team behind a £2billion entertainment park have this week unveiled further details of how it intends to become one of the most vibrant and popular resorts in Europe.

And it confirmed that if all goes to plan, work will begin by the end of 2016 and be ready to start welcoming guests by the summer of 2019.

It would be built on a disused land on the Swanscombe peninsula, using the natural curve of the Thames to shape it and become a major feature.

The complex, which will be comparable in size to Disneyland Paris, will consist of a number of key elements, all of which come under the umbrella title of Paramount London.

It comes after striking a licensing deal with the movie studio which will allow it to use a host of its biggest brands, such as Star Trek and Mission Impossible, on rides and attractions.

The plans currently include a central creative and industrial hub at its heart, creating some 6,000 jobs, surrounded by an 'entertainment street'.

Key features spinning off this cen-



HIGH HOPES: How Paramount Park, which promises to create some 27,000 jobs, might look if it is built

tral section would be a theme park, water park, an events space big enough to attract major music and sport events, and a hotel with 5,000 rooms, creating 7,000 jobs.

Outside would be a monorail linking Ebbsfleet International Station with the resort. Those behind the project expect an additional two to three million people will use the high-speed station as a result of the scheme.

The park is promoted by London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH),

which is 75 per cent owned by the Kuwaiti European Holding Company (KEH).

It has ensured the funding is in place for the planning stage and will then seek to secure the investment necessary to move to the construction phase.

It follows a series of public consultations that concluded this weekend outlining the project and seeking to establish how the local communities most affected wished the consultation process to proceed.

If all goes to plan, the formal public consultation will begin at the end of the year.

The formal planning document will then go directly to the secretary of state after securing Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project status – a move that takes the decision-making process out of the hands of local authorities and is designed to streamline the process.

In total, it is hoped that the site will spark the generation of some 27,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

Man examining CPO after thousands sign petition

THANET District Council says it is continuing to examine the feasibility of serving a compulsory purchase order (CPO) on Manston Airport.

At a meeting on Thursday night, the council was presented with a petition signed by thousands imploring the council to save the airport. A CPO is a legal measure local authorities can take advantage of which will allow them to force the purchase of land in private ownership if it can be demonstrated it is for the greater good.

The airport was taken over by businesswoman Ann Gloag last October. But, unable to secure freight and passenger deals, she closed it in May, with the loss of 150 jobs.

Dozens of campaigners from the Save Manston Airport group, and opponents, packed the chamber and some had to be accommodated in an overflow room. Feelings were running so high that when the video link to the overflow room broke, police had to be summoned.

The council will now consider the

options for saving the airport at a series of meetings over the coming weeks, including an extraordinary cabinet meeting at 2pm next Thursday.

The petition also asked the council to look into the possibility of ordinary people helping out with the purchase by buying bonds.

Council leader Iris Johnston put forward a motion asking the council to consider "all available options".

"This is probably the biggest campaign I have ever seen apart from the battle to save our hospital," she said.

"But we don't have the money to buy an airport, so we need an investor who will reimburse all our costs."

However, councillor Alan Poole warned that a compulsory purchase could result in Mrs Gloag suing the council for compensation "of between £50 million and £100 million".

American investment firm RiverOak has suggested it is still interested in acquiring the site.

Italian waiter murder: Gang receive life terms for attack

THREE men received life sentences this week after being found guilty of murdering Italian waiter Joele Leotta, 20, in a brutal attack in Maidstone last October.

The incident occurred in Lower Stone Street when the victim and his friend were attacked after they confronted a group of men trying to gain access to their flat.

It transpired that the group, who lived in the building, believed,

wrongly, the Italian men had made a complaint earlier about noise.

Aleksandras Zuravliovas, 26, Linas Zidonas, 21, and Saulius Tamoliunas, 24, were found guilty of murder and grievous bodily harm following an 11-week trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

Zuravliovas got life with a minimum term of 21 years, while Zidonas and Tamoliunas were given minimum of 20-year-terms.

Hospital trust told it must remain in special measures

THE Medway NHS Foundation Trust has vowed it is on the road to recovery despite a report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) this week, insisting it remains in special measures.

The trust, which oversees Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham, was put in special measures last July, prompting new leadership to be installed. But it still failed to sufficiently

impress CQC inspectors who visited again in April.

England's chief inspector of hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "Despite some areas of development, the trust has made inadequate progress in the past year."

Steve Hams, at the trust, said: "We have implemented urgent actions in response to the concerns raised by the CQC."

Six-hour wait after Channel Tunnel breakdown

TRAVELLERS using the Channel Tunnel found themselves facing delays of up to six hours on Monday after a train broke down, causing major problems on both sides of the Channel.

Services on both the Eurostar and Eurotunnel services were affected by the incident when a Eurotunnel train stopped about seven miles into the journey after a problem with electricity cables.

Some 382 passengers had to be lead to safety along a service tunnel before being returned to the surface in a replacement train.

But they had to wait a day before being reunited with their vehicles.

As engineers battled to resolve the issue, delays built up, with many passengers having to be diverted instead on to the ferry companies.



WALK-OUT: Kent's fire crews

Firefighters in eight days of strike action

FIREFIGHTERS will walk out on Monday for the first of eight back-to-back days of strike action.

It will be the most sustained series of action yet in their on-going dispute with the Government over changes to their pensions.

The action has been called by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and forms part of a nationwide dispute which it describes as a "vicious attack on firefighters".

Kent Fire and Rescue (KFRS) director of operations Sean Bone-Knell said: "As with previous strikes, we have been working hard to put contingency plans in place to maintain an emergency service to answer 999 calls and respond to incidents across the county."

"We will be providing the best service possible with the resources available but it's vital that the public continues to be aware of these strikes and we urge everyone to heed our safety warnings by taking extra care to prevent fires happening in the first place."

Strike shifts start on Monday and continue up to and including the following Monday, July 21.

Fire minister Brandon Lewis said earlier this month: "I would strongly encourage the union to engage constructively as part of meaningful discussions."

Thames estuary airport plans hang by thread as reports highlight issues

By Chris Britcher

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THE case against the creation of a multibillion-pound international hub airport in the Thames estuary is fast overwhelming the benefits, after two reports published this week.

Both highlight issues which would cost billions to resolve before the proposed airport on Hoo and reclaimed land in the estuary could go ahead.

The reports were published by the Davies Commission – the independent committee set up and chaired by economist Howard Davies to report back on how to tackle the south east aviation capacity issue.

In preliminary findings published last year he short-listed the expansion of Gatwick or Heathrow.

But he hesitated to rule out the estuary proposal, championed by London mayor Boris Johnson. Instead he said he would carry out further research and make a further announcement later this year.

While many of campaigners'



SUNK? Estuary airport plans

claims were cited as problems which were not insurmountable, such as the threat of bird strikes, fears over fog and the ticking time-bomb that is the wreck of the sunken Second World War munitions ship the SS

Montgomery, there were major stumbling blocks.

In addition to a £2bn cost of resolving ecological problems by building on the site, the biggest concern in the specialist reports was over the amount of time it would take passengers to reach the site.

The report, entitled Operational Feasibility and Attitudes to Moving to an Estuary Airport, prepared for the commission, said: "Stakeholders were concerned about the level of cost required to develop the estuary airport and the necessary surface infrastructure."

"Surface access and the remote location of the estuary airport caused significant concerns in terms of the smaller, untested catchment area and the impact on passengers and businesses."

"For passengers, the additional journey time may be unattractive for short-haul flights, upon which long-haul routes are dependent."

"For staff, the commuting distance and time was considered unattractive and unsustainable."

M&S confirms town centre store to close

MARKS & Spencer chiefs confirmed on Friday the closure of its town centre store in Gravesend.

Discussion with all 63 staff employed on the site continue and it is understood they have been offered jobs in other stores.

It follows a consultation period that examined the closure plans for the site which has been in the town for more than 100 years.

It will close for the final time on September 27.

A spokesman for Marks & Spencer said: "It's a difficult decision that we've not made lightly."

"Unfortunately, the store is in need of modernisation and the scale of the investment required means that it is no longer commercially viable."

"We hope our customers in Gravesend will continue to shop with us at our new website M&S.com and our new-look stores in Bluewater and Hempstead Valley."

Gravesend Borough Council had held talks with the retail giant in efforts to save the New Road store from closure.

Parkrun trots on to the map in Dartford

PARKRUN's remarkable expansion continues after it confirmed it would be coming to Dartford at the end of the month.

The timed 5k run has become hugely popular across the country, attracting everyone from experienced runners to complete beginners. It's free to take part.

The event will take place at Central Park from July 26. Each run begins at 9am.

It is being supported by Dartford Borough Council. Dartford's parkrun will take place every Saturday at 9am.

The first event will be started by Jeremy Kite, leader of the borough council.

Cllr Kite said: "There are a lot of keen runners in the borough who I'm sure will benefit from this new free weekly event."

Kent parkrun events already up and running each weekend include runs in Whitstable, Ashford, Canterbury, Tonbridge, Gravesend, Maidstone, Margate and Gillingham.

Festival chiefs vow to return again in 2015

ORGANISERS of the Hop Farm Festival say the event will be back for 2015 after its first year under new management.

The event attracted some 10,000 fans to the grounds of the Paddock Wood site last weekend. It was the first since the event was reborn after new promoters took over following its cancellation last year.

Headliners included Grace Jones, The Kinks' singer Ray Davies and Beach Boys star Brian Wilson.

However, it was not all smooth running. On Sunday two of the biggest names pulled out at short notice, with both Deacon Blue and Dr John failing to appear.

The promoter Neil Butkeraitis said: "I would like to state that although the odds were stacked up against us we delivered exactly what we set out to do – we are very proud to have a successful festival that is here to stay. We are already talking about next year, so watch this space."

Turn inside for a full review and pictures.



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A whole new story as Kent on Sunday enjoys its fresh surroundings

KENT on Sunday moved into its new offices earlier last month – so be sure to use our new address when you want to get in contact with us.

After 10 years in Smeeth, we began a new era for your favourite Kent weekend newspaper when we moved into Kent House in the heart of Ashford town centre.

Kent on Sunday's editorial, advertising and distribution teams are now based at the modern new offices, along with colleagues from our sister title, the glossy Kent Life magazine.

From here we will continue to deliver the finest regional newspaper for the entire county, with all the latest news, leisure, sport, business and your one-stop shop for the best offers from our loyal advertisers.

Archant Kent publisher Simon

Irwin said: "We enjoyed a great period of success at Apple Barn, winning a host of awards over the years and firmly establishing ourselves as a class apart for a free newspaper.

"And we continue to evolve which is why we're now greatly looking forward to starting the next chapter of our success story."

Which means if you want to get in touch, you'll need to now address all correspondence to:

Kent on Sunday, Archant Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. All email addresses remain the same.

Our telephone numbers have changed too. For all advertising enquiries, call 01233 653461; for editorial, call 01233 653475; for distribution, call: 01233 653470.

• A revised version of this appeared in last week's paper.



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La z boy	Corner group in cream hide	£3815	£2859	£1793
Lyon	Circular kitchen table & 2 chairs	£737	£589	£198

Manufacturer	Description	RRP	Our Price	Display Model Price
Nimbus	1275 corner unit in satin oak	£869	£695	£343
Annecy	Wardrobe with drawers	£895	£715	£451
Sealy	135cm Polaris Memory drawer set	£1089	£599	£448



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ISLE BE THERE: Eurosceptic Craig Mackinlay, pictured left, is the new Tory candidate for Thanet South, where he will battle Labour's Will Scobie, right, and maybe Ukip's Nigel Farage, centre

UKIP leader Nigel Farage has been told to scrap any plans to contest a key Kent seat at the next general election by a friend and former party colleague who this week was confirmed as the Conservative candidate.

Craig Mackinlay, who was once leader of Ukip before Mr Farage, has been parachuted in by the Tories as their prospective parliamentary candidate for Thanet South in what can only be an attempt to stop the charismatic Ukip leader and south east MEP winning the seat next year.

Ukip will be looking to capitalise on their impressive showing in recent elections, which saw them become the main opposition party on Kent County Council and take the lion's share of MEPs at the recent European elections in the south east.

More locally, in council elections they performed strongly in Swale, Shepway and Thanet.

Mr Mackinlay, a strong Eurosceptic who wants Britain to leave the EU, was a founder member of Ukip but defected to the Tories in 2005.

Although Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham, has yet to announce where he, or indeed any Ukip candidate, will be standing, Thanet, where the party enjoys strong support, has been widely tipped as a possible choice for him.

Previously held by Labour, it will be a key battleground after incumbent MP Laura Sandys confirmed she would not contest a second term when the nation went to the polls in 2015.

Political analyst Dr John Fitzgibbon said Mr Farage would now be well advised to think very carefully about where he intended to stand.

"I think it's a very smart move by the Conservatives, putting up candidates who are mini Nigel Farages," said Dr Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University.

"They have got someone with very strong Eurosceptic bonafides and made a decisive move on the political chessboard. They are going to try to have Nigel Farage running scared."

"Craig Mackinlay is an accountant and very strong on law and order and things like that, so he will appeal to the traditional Tory base there."

He said that losing the seat would

Ukip's Farage would be a fool to stand in Thanet, says pundit

Any plans leader might have had for key seat may need revising after Tories select their own Eurosceptic, writes **Sarah Linney**

be disastrous not just for Mr Farage but for Ukip as a whole.

"I think he would be a fool to stand," Dr Fitzgibbon said bluntly.

"Where he stands, he has to win, or that's the end of Ukip. If you stop him, you stop Ukip. He's the most high-profile one and he has to be in the House of Commons, making speeches."

Speaking to KoS this week, Mr Farage said: "This makes not one bit of difference. We will be fighting Thanet South to win it and I have every belief we can do so. We will be announcing our candidates within the next few weeks."

Mr Mackinlay will already be familiar to many voters. The chartered accountant represents River ward on Medway Council and stood against Ann Barnes in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2012.

“We have similar values and a mutual respect for each other. I haven't spoken to him [Farage] and I hadn't planned to – I think the ball is in his court”

Craig Mackinlay, prospective parliamentary candidate

"I am delighted to have been selected," he told KoS after his candidacy was announced last weekend.

"Thanet is a marvellous area and I always wanted to stand here. I know Thanet extremely well."

"It's a place I have done business in and I do a lot of boating, so Ramsgate is my second home. I would love to live there and will be moving into temporary accommodation there as soon as I can."

Along with Mr Farage, Mr Mackinlay was a founder member of Ukip when it was created in 1993 and had been a member of its predecessor, the Anti-Federalist League. He was party treasurer and vice-chairman before becoming its leader briefly in 1997.

He stood in Gillingham at the 1997 general election, polling 590 votes; in Totnes, Devon, at the 2001 general election; and again in Gillingham in 2005, just before he defected to the Tories. He also stood at the 1994, 1999 and 2004 European elections.

But Mr Mackinlay says his departure from the party was not acrimonious and that he is "friends" with Mr Farage – although he has not spoken to him about his candidacy.

"One of the main reasons I left Ukip was because of the danger of ongoing Labour governments," the 47-year-old said.

"The Tories lost a lot of seats because of Ukip and, much as I think there's a lot wrong with the EU, there's more wrong with Britain governed by Labour."

"People have been condemning Ukip voters as slightly odd, but they are not. I have no acrimony against Ukip and I salute all those who voted Ukip for doing something different – but I want them back."

And he said that, given his Eurosceptic credentials, he felt Ukip should not be opposing him.

"I think it would resonate quite badly with what they are trying to do if they stand against people like me," he said.

"There is a real danger they could let Labour in – who will not give us a referendum. I know Nigel extremely well and we are very good friends."

"We have similar values and a mutual respect for each other. I haven't spoken to him and I hadn't planned to – I think the ball is in his court."

"But my message to him would be this: 'We have got the chance of an EU referendum, which we have both fought for for many years. Let me be the building block. Take your skills and campaign elsewhere – we shouldn't be fighting each other on this one.'"

However, Mr Farage said that polls had indicated that standing aside could be the worst thing Ukip could do for the Eurosceptic cause.

"There is quite a strong argument that if you vote Tory, Labour will get in," he said.

"We polled Thanet South last November and asked people how they

would vote if there was no Ukip candidate: 49 per cent said they wouldn't vote at all, 22 per cent said they would vote Conservative, and 21 per cent said they would vote Labour."

Ukip enjoy some of their strongest support in the country in Thanet. They polled 46 per cent in the district in the European elections in May and hold seven of its eight seats on the county council, where Roger Latchford, who represents the Birchington and villages ward, is Ukip leader.

However, the party polled just 5.5 per cent of the vote in Thanet South at the 2010 general election, with candidate Trevor Shonk coming fourth.

Current MP Mrs Sandys, who won in 2010 with a 7,600 majority, has already been out on the campaign trail with Mr Mackinlay and described herself as "thrilled to have such a great candidate".

But she would not be drawn on what Ukip should do, saying: "The Tory party is not identical to Ukip – it is down to them to make those decisions."

Mr Latchford said the announcement of Mr Mackinlay's candidacy would make "not the slightest difference" to Mr Farage's decision.

"Nigel will stand where he wants to stand – he is his own man," he said.

He did not agree with the suggestion that Ukip should stand aside to allow Eurosceptic voters to unite behind Mr Mackinlay.

"I can't agree with that view. It is scaremongering by the Conservatives as they know they are in for a hiding," Mr Latchford said.

"The fact they have put up an ex-Ukip candidate shows they are getting extremely worried about their future in Thanet South."

"But the fact Mr Mackinlay was once a member of Ukip is totally immaterial. He will be considered as a Conservative when people put their cross on the ballot paper."

Prospective Labour candidate Will Scobie said he was unperturbed by the announcement.

"It hasn't really changed much for us. We are already against one right-wing candidate – the choice for the electorate hasn't changed," said Mr Scobie, who lives in Cliftonville.

"We will leave the two Ukip candidates to argue about Europe. Voters on the doorstep are not talking about that."

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Multimillion-pound government scheme to boost county's economy

The coalition has allocated £12bn to expand the UK's infrastructure and get a range of developments under way in a bid to create jobs and housing. **Sarah Linney** looks at how this will impact on Kent.

A HOST of major infrastructure projects across the county were given government support this week when a multimillion-pound funding package was unveiled.

It is hoped they will help kick-start jobs and the creation of more homes.

Among the key developments will be a new junction off the M20 at Ashford, a bypass for Maidstone town centre, road improvements in Canterbury and investment in the town centres of Chatham, Sittingbourne and Tonbridge.

It all forms part of a £442.2 million funding package earmarked for Kent, Essex and East Sussex between now and 2021.

The projects will roll out between now and then, with some £84.1m shared between the three counties for 2015-16.

Nationally, £12 billion has been allocated as part of the Coalition's Growth Deal, aimed at boosting the economy around the country over the course of the next six years.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "For too long our economy has been too London-focused and too centralised. This will help to change that."

The funding is coming thanks to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP), the region's strategic enterprise partnership, which successfully bid for the cash.

Its chairman Peter Jones said: "This is tremendously good news for our businesses and people – addressing years of under-investment in the south east's transport network."

"It's not only a matter of improving connectivity around the area but of providing links which open up major new sites for housing and business development."

The Government has also given its backing to SELEP's proposal to create a South East Fund (SEFUND) – a professionally managed, recyclable fund to "accelerate investment in infrastructure and property developments to enable significant business expansion and jobs".

SELEP says it will work with the Government to put the operational measures in place to establish SEFUND in the coming weeks.

MEDWAY

THE on-going rebuilding of the Medway towns continues with funding towards the £29m regeneration scheme of Chatham.

The route between Chatham train station and the town centre is to be improved, with a new square in the town centre as well as public artwork, landscaping, improvements to footpaths and cycling routes and traffic management.

There will also be a riverside walk from Sun Pier to the town centre.

Measures will also be taken to improve access to the Medway City Estate, including quicker buses, better footpaths and cycle paths through the estate and cycle-parking.

Medway Council said in a statement: "The funding will help us to continue to develop Chatham as Medway's city centre, to increase trade and attract new businesses."

Some 600 new homes are planned in Strood and the money will also help to pay for flood defences, as well as traffic improvements and better access for pedestrians and cyclists to the town centre in a bid to boost trade.

TONBRIDGE

TONBRIDGE'S lower High Street was dealt a major blow earlier this year when plans to redevelop the town's Sainsbury's site were torpedoed after the supermarket opted to withdraw its proposals.

It stopped in its tracks plans to develop more apparent links with the Angel Centre complex and the High Street while also providing a new leisure complex.

The town vowed to bounce back, and now it has some funding to allow it to do just that.

The partnership's report said: "It is struggling to maintain an attractive retail offer, with a growing number of empty properties and a lack of private sector investment."

A total of £2.37m has therefore been set aside to make the town centre more attractive, with measures including wider footpaths and loading bays to help traffic flows.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council leader Nicolas Heslop said: "This is very welcome news."

"It means we can make an early start on major improvements to the High Street to create a more shopper-friendly environment to help boost trade."

SITTINGBOURNE

SITTINGBOURNE is another town crying out for regeneration after suffering a similar supermarket scheme disappointment.

It had hoped Tesco would allow the town centre to be prised open, but when the supermarket giant cut back on spending, the scheme bit the dirt.

It is hoped that funding to improve access for pedestrians between the train station and the town centre will be a first step.

Dover Street, outside the station, will be made two-way and the station forecourt will be pedestrianised.

MAIDSTONE

FEW would argue that Maidstone is not one of the county's traffic blackspots, with regular long, lengthy queues

snaking through the county town.

The £8.9m given to Maidstone includes funding for a gyratory bypass, which aims to reduce congestion at one of the county town's worst pressure points.

Currently, courtesy of the town's one-way system, all traffic going northbound towards Chatham along the A229 has to cross the River Medway over the Maidstone Bridge, then back again over St Peter's Bridge.

Under the plans, two extra lanes will be created on the A229, allowing northbound traffic to go straight on rather than crossing the river twice, and hopefully easing the jams. It is also hoped that with the congestion lessened, the west side of the river can be regenerated.

Borough council spokesman Roger Adley said predictions from traffic experts indicated that delays could be cut by 10 per cent as a result of the work, lessening pollution as well.

Another £2.19m has been set aside to reduce congestion at junction four on the M20 by widening the eastern bridge from two lanes to three, while a further £2m will pay for cycle paths from housing estates on the outskirts of Maidstone into the town centre.

Council leader Annabelle Blackmore said: "These schemes will provide a much-needed boost for our economy."

"The bridge gyratory system is a

major source of irritation for many drivers on a daily basis. These improvements will bring significant reductions in travel times.”

However, Jasper Gerard, the Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone, said planners were creating “bedlam” in the town. He said that instead of building more roads in the town centre, planners should take traffic out of the town.

“I have real concerns about the scheme Kent County Council has come up with.

“To ram what is to all intents and purposes a motorway through the centre of Maidstone – four lanes of traffic on the east side of the river – will not do anything to regenerate the banks either side of the river, which I see as essential for the future prosperity and attractive environment of Maidstone.

“It does not address the fundamental problems: over-development, which will see 20,000 more houses built; lack of public transport and cycle lanes; and the prospect of further delay of the much-needed bypass leading out to the M20 that would take traffic away from the town centre. Why drag yet more cars into our gridlocked gyratories?”

In Tunbridge Wells, a town infamous for its traffic congestion, the traffic lights on the A26 London Road at the junctions with Speldhurst Road and Yew Tree Road will be replaced by roundabouts to ease jams.

THANET

THANET has been given £10m for a new Thanet Parkway train station, taking the total number of stations in the district to eight.

It has not yet been decided where the station will go, but two sites mooted in the past have been Manston airport – potentially now out of the running, though, unless a rescue plan can be hatched to allow it to be reopened after closing in May – and close to Discovery Park, the former site of the Pfizer complex.

Thanet District Council leader Iris Johnston said the funding was “great news for Thanet” and that it would “help to develop much-needed infrastructure in the area”.

“For us, any money coming in is good, although we would have liked to have had more for other projects,” she told Kent on Sunday.

“We had real concerns about a parkway station at the airport originally as we thought they might want to close some of our other stations, but we have made it very clear that any new station must not lead to the closure of the existing ones.

“It is encouraging money is also being spent on Margate and Ramsgate.

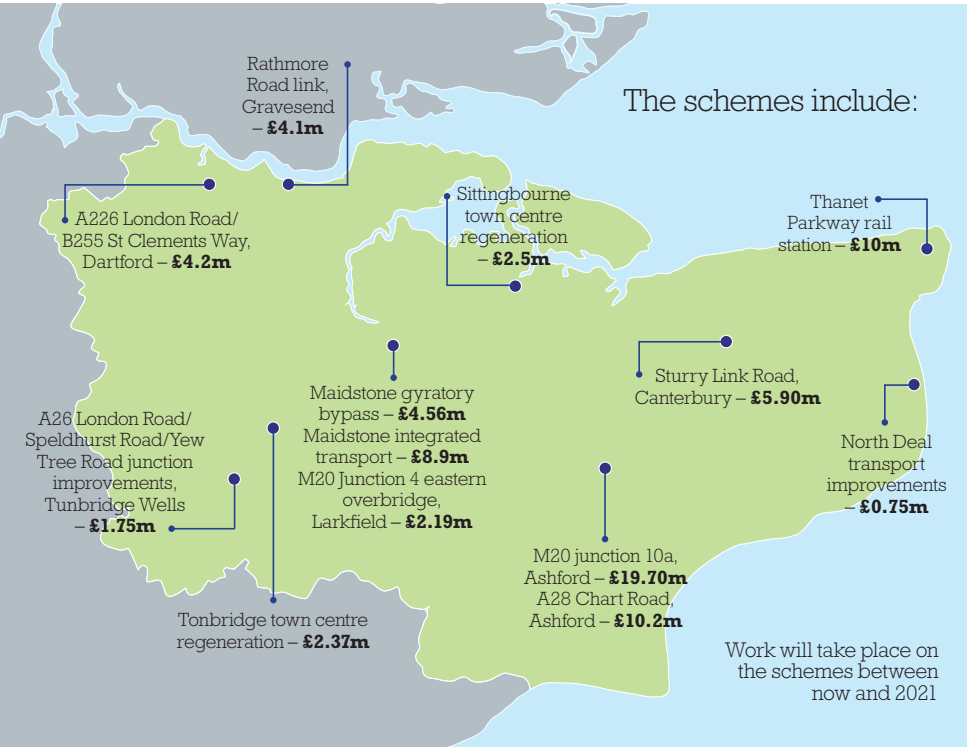
“There are also concerns about whether the station would be manned and whether there would be jobs going with it. Manned stations are vital both for security and for welcoming people.”

CANTERBURY

THE £5.9m set aside for the Canterbury area will go towards a new road between the city and Sturry.

A further £250,000 will also fund an extension to the bus lane on Sturry Road in the city, which will be more than two kilometres long.

It is traditionally one of the busiest access roads into the city.



CENTRE SPOT: Maidstone is to get a new gyratory bypass to ease the congestion currently suffered by motorists

“Access into Canterbury city centre from north-east Canterbury is currently constrained due to severe congestion and the capacity constraints

of the A28 Sturry Road,” the partnership’s report explains.

Colin Carmichael, chief executive of Canterbury City Council, said: “It is

vital to have this infrastructure in place if thousands of new homes are to be delivered on a few large sites in the district.

NTW

The schemes include:

“Importantly, it will also mean reduced delays for A28 road-users and much-needed relief from traffic congestion for people in Sturry. We know from discussions with people that this is a matter of great importance to them and we are pleased to have had this positive news.”

ASHFORD

A HUGE chunk of the money between now and 2021 will go to Ashford, where some £70m is to be spent.

More than £35m of the Growth Deal cash will fund a new junction 10a off the M20, barely half a mile south of junction 10, with the Highways Agency putting in a roughly equal amount.

As well as hopefully easing congestion at the often-choked junction 10, the new junction will provide access to planned developments south of the town, including 1,100 homes at Cheeseman’s Green, south of Sevington.

Ashford MP Damian Green called it “one of the most significant advances for Ashford in the last 20 years”.

Richard Alderton, the council’s head of planning and development, added: “I think it’s going to be popular with those who think junction 10 is increasingly congested.

“The planned growth can’t happen without junction 10a. The Newtown works can’t be built on until there’s a new junction on the motorway.

“People worry about how long junction 10 can last in its current form.”

Some £10m will also be spent ‘improving’ the A28 to provide access to the planned 5,750 homes in the hamlet of Chilmington Green – the controversial ‘new town’ being built.

Work on both schemes is expected to start in 2016-17.

But whereas council-taxpayers might balk at seeing so much of their money spent on something that thousands declared themselves against, Mr Alderton claimed there was no alternative.

“There will be development in Ashford and we need to cater for it in such a way that the road network doesn’t clog up,” he said.

“There are opponents to every large-scale development. The judgment was made that it was best to do it in a well-planned way in one place rather than have blocks of development wherever.”

He agreed that improved public transport also needed to be part of the solution to traffic congestion.

“We need to do both – roads and public transport,” he said.

“We badly need improved bus services and there will be high-speed buses going from Chilmington Green to the town centre. That will be part of the development and the developers will be subsidising them until they are viable.”

Council leader Gerry Clarkson said economic growth in the borough would be stifled if junction 10a were not built.

“News that the scheme is going ahead will bring real confidence that we will have the road capacity needed to enable a major programme of economic and commercial development and house-building,” he added.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, agreed. “So much economic activity has been locked up while we waited for this project to come forward,” she said.

“With this announcement the brakes will come off these investments.”



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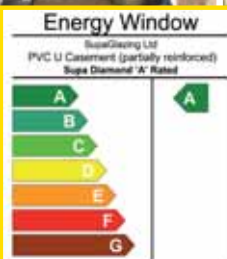
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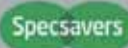




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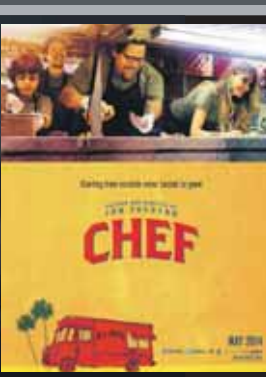
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Rain is not enough to dampen spirits as county

Crowds flock to



SHOWING OFF: The Kent County Show runs all this weekend, revealing the cream of the crop

THOUSANDS are set to brave the weather for the Kent County Show this weekend, as its opening on Friday was accompanied by heavy downpours.

However, organisers insisted it would not dampen spirits at what is traditionally one of the highlights on the county calendar.

Ahead of the three-day event at the show-ground in Detling, record online advance ticket sales had been secured.

The show is a celebration of all things rural and agricultural. But it opened on Friday to grey skies and drizzle.

The forecast for the rest of weekend is set to be a mix of sunshine and showers.

It is unlikely, however, to suffer the problems of 2012 when torrential rain on soggy ground left the site a quagmire and forced the closure of the car parks.

It left the event with big losses and red faces. Work has subsequently taken place to ensure no repeat, and on Friday, the reinforced car parks were holding up well, despite the rain.

Following in familiar footsteps, attractions for the 2014 show include livestock exhibitions, such as sheep sheering and goat milking demonstrations, heifer and bull displays.

There are also hundreds of stalls showcasing various products and services.

This year also saw the introduction of the horticultural marquee, a new expansion of the always popular flower tent.

The theme in the marquee is iconic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.

Alongside the rural pursuits will be live music. It forms part of the bigger emphasis on entertainment this year, such as the Imps Motorcycle Display Team, which will perform on Sunday.

Explained Lucy Hegarty, the show's manager: "Last year saw a huge increase in gate numbers following the previous two years' decline due to the unseasonable weather.

"We are concentrating our efforts on giving our visitors the best day possible."

Added spokeswoman Gill Collins: "We have had record online ticket sales this year, and were delighted with the number of visitors on Friday.

"We're hoping the weather will be kind across the weekend and we'll have even more visitors to Kent's largest outdoor event."

This year's show was attended by the Duke of

show puts all that's best about Kent on display for everyone to see and enjoy, writes **Maria Chiorando**

the county show extravaganza

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VARIETY: It's not just the animals that take centre stage at the county show



« PAGE 14

Kent, who became its patron in 1975, and last visited in 2011.

Unfortunately, any well-wishers hoping to catch a glimpse of the royal were left disappointed when he went straight to the VIP area, bypassing the public areas when

he arrived at the site on Friday.

A key feature of the show has always been its emphasis on local produce, and 2014 is no different, with a large market of retailers who are all supported by Produced in Kent, the organisation which champions local food and drink suppliers and producers.

Producer Sharon Harrison of the Margate Smokehouse, one of those exhibiting in the area this year, said: "The Produced in Kent area is fantastic, and really allows the county's producers to showcase their local products.

"It is the best advert for what we do in the area – there's cheese, meat,

juices and alcohol, an amazing range."

The importance of the show to local producers is something everyone agrees on.

Explains Pat Crawford, of Hadlow College, which has a huge presence at the event: "The show is an essential contribution to the county of Kent,

which retains its position as the Garden of England, and the Larder of London. We have some of the best farmers and growers in the UK.

"The show offers a wonderful window for the rural sector, which is increasingly vibrant.

"It also offers excellent opportunities for young people."

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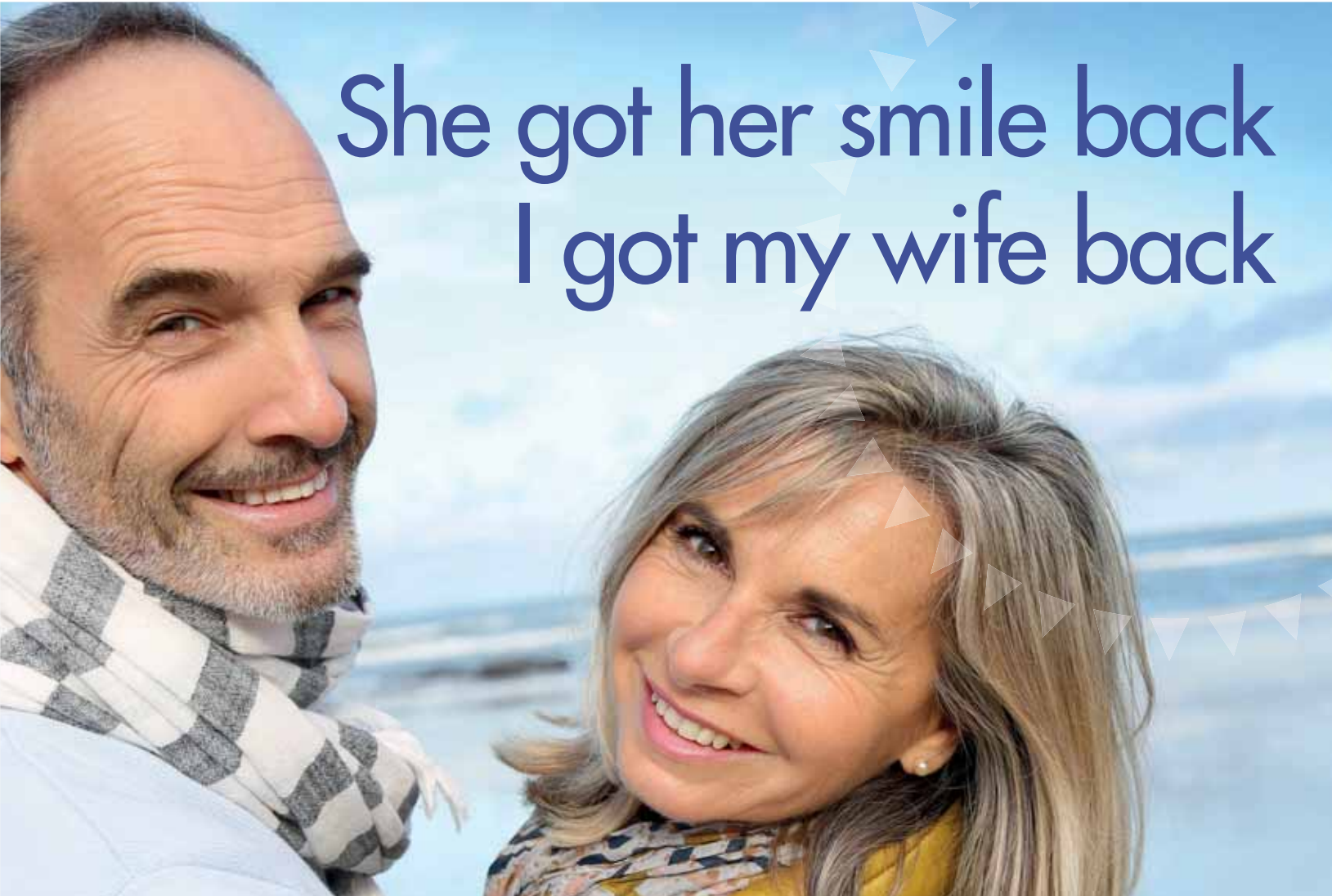
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ORGANISERS of this year's Lounge on the Farm music festival say they are on the brink of signing a deal to cement its future.

The popular event in Canterbury is this year just a one-day event – taking place on Saturday, August 2.

Normally a three-day extravaganza, and now established as one of the county's most popular annual music, food and drink festivals, it bids farewell to its traditional home on Merton Farm on the outskirts of the city this year.

It was told at the end of last year by the farmer who owns the land that he has other plans for the site and that it could only take place in a reduced format.

So instead of the 7,500 to 10,000 crowd it normally attracts, this summer's farewell event to the site will be a 2,500 capacity event.

Explains founder Sean Baker: "Planning is going well for this year – there was a huge rush on tickets when they first went on sale and we've only a few now remaining.

"We're looking at a number of other sites for next year when we'll be back with a bang to a full three days."

And it could be back in 2015 under the umbrella of an as yet unnamed organisation, which already owns a handful of other festival events around the UK.

But unlike before, when investors came on board with plans to dramatically increase the event's capacity and take it in a different direction to that on which it built its reputation, any new partners intend to allow it to remain the intimate, family-friendly event it has become.

Explains Mr Baker: "It's not confirmed yet but we're talking to another festival organisation that wants to add us to their portfolio. We got rid of one lot of investors and now we're in talks with another.

"With these guys they don't want to change anything. Their business model doesn't rely on 10,000, 20,000 or 30,000 people attending.

"They have another five different events, they own the infrastructure which allows them to keep the ticket prices down. They like the 10,000 size and think 7,500 – which is where we're at – is a good figure.

"The other investors we had wanted to do it a very different way to us.

"We can see a light now at the end of the tunnel and we're pretty stoked."

It is hoped if, and when, the deal is struck, the new organisers will spearhead negotiations for its new home.

Adds Mr Baker: "We've had a number of offers but we're keen it takes place on a farm again, and that it remains in or around Canterbury."

In 2011, it did run into problems when new investors attempted to increase its capacity with a young line-up which saw concerns over under-age drinking and a handful of thefts.

But organisers acted swiftly to crack down on the problems, and after reapplying for its licence after pressure from police and local authorities, it eradicated the problems and for the last two years has been praised for its family friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Along with the Hop Farm Festival, which took place in Paddock Wood last weekend, it has established itself as one of Kent's two top festivals.



Lounge on the Farm edges towards sell-out as it eyes fresh future

Popular family music event bids 'farewell' to its traditional home with a one day extravaganza, writes **Chris Britcher**

This year's headliners include the Fun Lovin' Criminals and former New Order and Joy Division star Peter Hook.

The last remaining tickets are expected to be snapped up quickly, with a renewed demand since festival season got under way in style with Glastonbury at the end of last month.

Certainly Lounge on the Farm has proved in the past to be the place to watch upcoming stars and big names.

It was one of the first major festivals to book Nile Rodgers and Chic who performed two years ago, while it has also played host to the likes of The Vaccines and Bastille.

HISTORY OF 'ROLLERCOASTER' FESTIVAL

LOUNGE on the Farm, now in its ninth year, admits itself to having been on something of a "rollercoaster ride" during its short life.

After the most humble of beginnings in 2006 – which saw just a few hundred people attend to witness the first three-dayer – it began gradual organic growth.

Within just two years, the crowds had already swollen to around 4,000 and its reputation began to spread, being well reviewed nationally as one of the nation's top 'boutique' festivals.

But as the market exploded, Lounge was approached by investors who had visions of it following in the footsteps of Glastonbury as a major event.

Yet 2011 proved a watershed year. Concerns from local residents and the police sparked a major rethink and it gave up its licence to prove once again it was a worthy event.

Over the following two years it readjusted and by last year was back to its original format.

After the farmer who ran Merton Farm retired and handed over control to his son, it had a rethink over the use of the site and late last year informed Lounge organisers it would not be able to host the event in 2014.



Frantic negotiations ensured it could stage one final 'farewell' event, but it would be limited in size and to just one day.

Next year it will be back, in a new home, and once again over three days. It is also likely, but not confirmed, it will push back into July.

FOUNDER:
Sean Baker

Previous headline acts, in what is traditionally an eclectic line-up, include Soul II Soul, Ellie Goulding, Emelie Sande and Echo and the Bunnymen.

Its reliance and insistence on stall holders at the festival sourcing products locally has endeared it to Kent suppliers and festival-goers.

And it continues to pack a powerful punch, delivering a unique atmosphere and diverse audience.

Despite only taking place on one-day, it is providing camping facilities and 600 overnight tickets have already been snapped up.

Concludes Mr Baker: "The good thing is that this year we don't have to do anything different, because people like it.

"It's still exactly the same, the stages, the hay bales. There won't be any difference apart from the site being a little smaller, but I'm not sure the public will really notice it."

■ **Lounge on the Farm takes place at Merton Farm in Canterbury on August 2. Tickets and more details can be found at www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.**

Hop Farm Festival returns...

REVIEW: Back from the dead, has the county's former big-hitter still got what it takes? **Chris Britcher** finds out

THREE years ago, had James Blunt bounded on stage dressed in a space-suit before a swollen Hop Farm Festival crowd, he may well have been bottled off by the serious muso brigade waiting for the likes of Bob Dylan, Lou Reed, Morrissey or Patti Smith.

In 2014, however, he ends up with everyone singing along and eventually cheering him off stage having re-evaluated him.

Now, in truth, part of that is down to the fact that Blunt works his socks off to make us like him (the manner in which he divides opinion makes him appear as if on the perpetual look out for a bottle of some yellow liquid being hurled at him, or some sort of sniper in the tree tops), but also, more significantly, the changing face of the Paddock Wood festival.



Once upon a time, Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm was the big player of the eclectic card when it came to line-ups, but it's fair to say the Hop Farm may have now stolen its crown.

But then under new promoters and with a new look, the Hop Farm Festival needs to deliver a weight of numbers and a strong weekend of entertainment.

Crucially, however, it needed to deliver



what the previous incarnation always failed to achieve, despite the mountains of money shovelled into the wallets of the talent wheeled out to entertain the masses – atmosphere.

The jury may be out on both.

The Hop Farm Festival of old may have failed to turn a profit in its five years – despite its sometimes stellar line-ups – but it did create a niche for itself in an over-crowded festival mar-

ket. It was the site of legends.

Today, it is legends of a, well, less legendary era. The eighties are well represented here which is no bad thing, but it does pack less bang for your buck.

It's not, after all, that the event was devoid of some at times scintillating entertainment. Grace Jones was a masterstroke as headliner and delivered a tight set while defying her 66



years by looking as striking as she did in her 1980s hey-day. It was hard to pull your eyes away from her.

And the Sunday afternoon delivered almost a solid afternoon of big names and big hits.

The late withdrawal of Deacon Blue from proceedings, along with that of Dr John, blew an almighty hole in the top end of the bill, but crowd-pleasing sets from Billy Ocean, Marc Almond,

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but does it hit the right note?



HOP FARM FAMILY FUN: The acts included the elegant Sophie Ellis Bextor, the legendary Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, the hard-working James Blunt, the poetical Ray Davies of the The Kinks, and 1980s diva Grace Jones.



recommendations from the family audience.

It may not be very rock 'n' roll, but if the Hop Farm Festival doesn't cut the mustard financially, it will struggle as it has in the past.

Former promoter Vince Power eventually came unstuck by spending too much money on performers while not enough punters came through the gates. Neil Butkeraitis, the new man at the helm, needs to redress the balance. And, in truth, so far all the noises coming out of the organisers' camp suggests it was perceived as a success.

Because fail to get that right and the sums won't add up and that equation will mean Kent loses one of its primary music events of the summer. And that really would be a blow.

As for the atmosphere issue... well, there remains not quite enough to do. By day two you've exhausted the limited food and fashion stalls and you become entirely reliant on the music... which then needs to work or leaves you feeling a little stranded.

The reality is that the Hop Farm Festival delivered what it said on the tin – a family-friendly event for the more mature festival goer. As a result, it lost that slight frisson of excitement and superstar power. But it also served up a healthy dollop of quality performances right on to our doorstep and plenty of big names too.

And for that we should ensure we remain grateful.

Sophie Ellis Bextor, Arrested Development and even Chas n Dave kept the mood up and delivered a sustained period of entertainment.

Time it right from the main stage too, and you could take in Peter Hook taking us through the Joy Division and New Order back catalogue in one of the weekend's highlights.

Elsewhere, Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys romped through his hits

on Saturday night, ditto Ray Davies of The Kinks on the Friday. Caro Emerald delivered perhaps one of Saturday's stand-out sets – as did the early afternoon outing of the Noisettes. Curtis Stigers even found time to mock the England football team's woeful performance in the jazz tent.

But in its bid to tick lots of boxes and appeal to lots of people, it lacked a certain musical coherence at times, and

as a consequence was neither one thing or another. Nor was there any one 'must see' act to unite the community that sprang up around the site. Which meant the modest crowds were sometimes spread a little thin.

Not that it bothered most of the crowd – a predominantly 40-plus audience, many of whom came with their kids in tow.

Certainly the family audience is

one to crave, but it does change the mood of an event. Lots of families means little drinking, which means a relatively subdued occasion, and, you have to wonder, not a run-away financial success story. Those bar tills ringing certainly deliver a solid return, after all.

On the flip side, it did create a very 'safe' vibe which will, in turn, no doubt deliver good 'word of mouth'

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Seaside snaps capture forever the fun and sun of our holidays on coast

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THE British seaside town has long been a victim of cheap flights and package holidays abroad.

But before jetting off to foreign shores became commonplace, the typical family would visit a resort closer to home during the summer.

And Kent was home to some of the best. With the south east's sunny climate and its many attractions, it was a popular destination.

And so the crowds would flock to Thanet.

It was 'the place' to go to visit the beautiful sandy beaches and arcades.

It was also where you could have your photograph taken by the Sunbeam Photographic Company. The company became well known for documenting the people and places along the coast.

And now many of these vintage photos will now be on show at the Sidney Cooper Gallery at Canterbury Christ Church University, in an exhibition called 'Beyond the View:

Reframing the Sunbeam Photographic Collection' sourced by The South East Archive of Seaside (SEAS) Photography. It provides a fascinating snapshot of a bygone era.

Dr Karen Shepherdson, principal lecturer in photography at Canterbury Christ Church University, has been working with Margate Museum, Thanet District Council and the public to conserve, digitally archive and share these photos by Sunbeam.

She said: "For much of the 20th century, the Sunbeam Photographic Company represented and reflected British culture.

"Sunbeam photographically documented on a vast scale, life in the UK's south east and specifically that of the coast.

"It is perhaps easy to regard such collections of commercial photography as ephemeral, yet the images within the archive and those to be shown at the summer exhibition are wonderfully worthy of reappraisal and reimagining."

On show will be over 700 images from the archives, showing a

snapshot into holiday life in days gone by.

These pictures show the changing social and cultural landscape of Britain, in the old-fashioned clothing, the activities and the atmosphere.

There are even familiar landmarks, such as Dreamland, nestled amongst the nostalgic depictions of children in smart beach clothes and ice-cream sellers in white coats.

Some of the photos were taken by internationally regarded photographers John Hinde and Tony Ray Jones, who visited east Kent in the 1960s.

SEAS Photography archivist Nigel Breadman said: "A major feature of the exhibition will be a wall-of-walkies, seaside photographs taken of people as they walked along the prom' or sat on the beach.

"SEAS Photography has had in excess of 500 donated images and we have brought these together to celebrate life at the seaside. It is hoped many visitors to the exhibition will spend time finding their own family within the exhibits."

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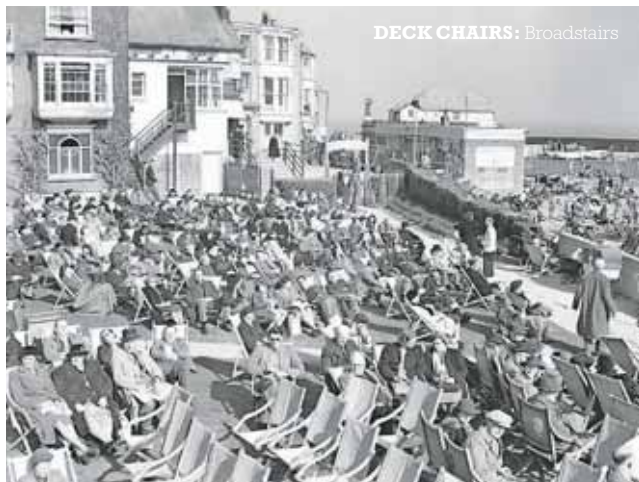
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No summer of love for farmers as they prepare for rave revival

Most of us are looking forward to long warm summer evenings, but the county's landowners are preparing for the damage and clear-up costs of parties held on their land, as **Jamie Weir** reports

AS THE summer ushers in long, warm evenings, a noisy danger lurks in the shadows which continues to disrupt farmers and rural dwellers alike.

While impromptu raves may have blossomed back at the end of the 1980s and into the early 1990s, they remain alive and popular with partygoers, who want to extend their evening in the fresh air.

The events often alert revellers by mobile phone or Twitter and Facebook to short-notice destinations where sound systems are set-up.

But the noise leaves neighbours fuming and the aftermath can often leave the area used littered with rubbish. In addition, raves are commonly used by those taking recreational drugs.

Kent Police is ready for another busy summer. Explains a spokesman: "Raves are unsafe and disruptive to our local communities with loud noise and property damage that greatly affect the quality of life of local residents."

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) – a group which represent the interest for landowners in the UK – are damning of these



SOUND BARRIER: Robin Edwards, pictured below, regional director of CLA says raves cause a great deal of disruption to local communities

large-scale free parties in our county's countryside.

CLA regional director Robin Edwards said: "Raves cause a great deal of disruption to local communities and often result in damage being caused to property and land."

"The mess left behind also causes considerable harm to both wildlife and the environment."

Nigel Snape, a farmer based in Capel, near Folkestone, adds: "Illegal raves are extremely

difficult for farmers and landowners to deal with, both in the immediate aftermath and in the longer term.

"It is a very stressful experience, and the clean up operation is time consuming and costly."

"A rave will commonly leave a farm littered with rubbish, cigarette butts and drink cans. Buildings can be damaged, fuel and equipment can be stolen, and fields are often badly rutted and churned by vehicles."

The CLA's Mr Edwards adds: "We urge farmers and landowners to help the police by reporting any suspicious activity. Early intervention and good local intelligence can prevent these illegal events and organisers can be dealt with appropriately."

"Warning signs include the removal of locks from secured access points; vehicles, particularly panel vans, or larger, driving off-road; groups of vehicles congregating in rural areas; convoys of vehicles; and loud music from remote woodland."

The police are well aware of the cat and mouse game it will become embroiled in again this summer – with the use of social media now making the ability to swiftly alert ravers to hastily arranged venues easier, and quicker, than ever before.

The police spokesman said: "Significantly, raves are a serious health and safety risk to revellers because they are associated with illegal drugs and excessive alcohol."

"We have also found that partygoers place themselves and others in danger of being struck by vehicles as they walk home along dimly lit roads once raves have ended or been stopped by police."

"We will continue to take a hard line against the people who organise raves and will prosecute and seize the equipment of anyone found to be involved."

The approach is welcomed by the CLA.

Mr Edwards added: "Kent Police's proactive approach to reduc-

ing raves is very welcome as landowners can fall victim, bearing the considerable clean-up costs incurred. By receiving early warnings,

Kent Police have a much better chance of disrupting the rave and dispersing those responsible for its organisation."

Raves, however, remain unperturbed by the threat posed by the police.

One 18-year-old from Dover, speaking under the condition of anonymity, is already a seasoned raver and is looking forward to attending events in the county this summer.

She told KoS: "We don't have any intention of damaging the countryside or property when we go out, and we all do our best to make sure things are cleared from land."

"But it's always going to be difficult, if not impossible, to actually clear up land and make sure all the litter is gone when we are being chased off land by the police and a farmer."

"We just enjoy the atmosphere and the music, which is always great. There's never any trouble, or any violence like you see on the average night out in a town, and it doesn't cost anywhere near as much as a night in pubs and clubs would."

"These raves are just a group of mates all having fun together out in the countryside. I don't see why they have such a bad reputation with the public. I think ravers who are just trying to have fun are made to seem worse than we actually are."

"People are invited through word of mouth. That's better than anything else because no one who isn't trusted gets to hear about them. I'm really looking forward to this year. I don't think we'll get caught by the police, and I'm just looking forward to a summer of fun."



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Property tycoon confirms £250m empire is to be put up for sale

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of Britain's biggest landlords is selling his portfolio of almost 1,000 Kent homes for around £250 million.

Fergus Wilson says he and his wife, former teacher Judith, will be selling their empire of houses in the Ashford and Maidstone areas to the highest bidder – wherever in the world they may be.

Mr Wilson, who lives in Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, told Kent on Sunday he is 66 next month and felt it was time to sell.

The properties generate an income of around £1 million a month, out of which come mortgage payments of around £350,000.

"It will be a sad day to see them all go. It has taken an incredible amount of solid hard work to get this far. I would prefer it to go to an English buyer," he said.

He wants to reassure his tenants he will do all he can to ensure they are allowed to remain.

Mr Wilson said: "I don't want the new owner coming in and kicking them out. The vast majority are good people and don't deserve that. They have been loyal to us, staying for over 10 years, so a new buyer will know they are good tenants. All you want from a tenant is to pay on time and look after the place."

He recently created controversy when he took the "necessary" decision, which he regretted doing, to evict some 200 of them who were on benefits because rent payments were not regular.

Mr Wilson said the sale will not affect the market for homes in Kent, as they will move from one private owner to another, adding: "It won't make any difference to the value of other people's homes – all that's happening is the ownership is being transferred."

Bill Dane, head of Hobbs Parker Ashford Homes, said how the stock is disposed of could have an impact on the rental market.

He explained: "The Wilsons are likely to want to sell their houses as an entity. It would probably appeal to an investment or property company and the price would be significantly influenced by rental yield alongside total house value."

It is not the first time they have threatened to sell their portfolio – in late 2008 they put nearly 70 properties on the market.

The Wilsons' remarkable property success story has elevated them to a level of national fame. They were once named in the Sunday Times Rich List with a fortune worth £180m.

The couple's fortunes have allowed them to indulge in their passions too – owning and entering horses in the Derby, the Gold Cup and the Grand National.

So what's next for the Wilsons?

Mr Wilson said he fancies chasing his love of writing books for children and adults.

The couple are also determined to have a proper holiday – their first since 1992.

Mr Wilson has also not ruled out standing against Ann Barnes as Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.

Mr Wilson said: "For now, the sale of the properties and well-being of our tenants is my number one priority. For us, it really will be the end of an era."



TIME TO SELL UP?: Rental property tycoons Fergus and Judith Wilson

RISE TO THE TOP

FERGUS Wilson has had a few jobs in his time – from a manager in a Ford quality control laboratory, to a pigeon auctioneer, and then, perhaps most famously, on to teaching maths in schools. He certainly was good at his sums.

His first house was snapped up in 1975 for the grand total of £8,200.

In 1992, they got serious about owning properties and in the early 2000s were grabbing one a day, using the income from one to pay for the next, all generally on the then 'new-fangled' buy-to-let mortgages.

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MPs' 'shock' at allegations of historic Westminster abuse

After claims files alleging sex abuse in the 1980s have gone missing, **Sarah Linney** spoke to some of our MPs who were there at the time of the claims

AS WEEKS in the long life of the Palace of Westminster go, this has been a pretty grim one. No sooner had the court cases concluded which saw entertainer Rolf Harris jailed – following in the wake of the likes of Jimmy Savile, publicist Max Clifford and presenter Stuart Hall – then the focus of historic cases of sexual abuse turned to the very heart of government.

Home secretary Theresa May has announced an inquiry into the way historic child abuse allegations, dating back to the 1980s, have been handled by public bodies – and Prime Minister David Cameron has promised that “no stone will be left unturned”.

It is a pledge he might live to regret.

With revelations last week that 114 Home Office files concerning allegations of a child abuse network had disappeared from government records, including horrific claims of a 1980s paedophile ring linked to Parliament, there is more than a hint of something rotten in the state of Westminster.

Last weekend, former Tory cabinet member Norman Tebbit admitted it was quite possible the natural reaction would have been to cover such allegations up in a bid to protect ‘the Establishment’ from shame.

But if someone has been covering something up, it is clear most MPs were as much in the dark about it – and are now as horrified by the revelations – as the public.

Former Conservative Party leader Michael Howard was a member of both the Margaret Thatcher and John Major cabinets, and the MP for Folkestone and Hythe from 1983 to 2010.

Speaking exclusively to Kent on Sunday, Lord Howard said: “I have never heard of any cover-up of paedophilia and I would be very surprised indeed if that had happened.”

“Files go missing for all sorts of reasons. You can’t assume that because a file went missing there was a cover-up.”

“I think it’s true people were less aware of the scale of paedophilia [back then], but there was not a greater tolerance of it.”

“But that’s only my view, and the Government is absolutely right to hold a full and thorough inquiry which will look at all those things.”

But Jacques Arnold, Tory MP for Gravesend from 1987 to 1997, told KoS: “Yes, there was a culture of protecting the Establishment.”

However, he said that this was not a result of people not caring, but of MPs trusting their party whips – the party line enforcers – to keep a watchful eye out for anything untoward and to act accordingly.

“If I had known about anything illegal, I would have brought it to the attention of the whips and would have felt confident they would investigate it. But if they were doing things properly, they would pick up anything that was going on,” he said.

“And I wouldn’t have known whether the matter would have been pursued.”

“It may have been more of an innocent world in those days, combined with a more deferential world. You looked up to the Establishment.”

“I think if half the goings-on had been known there might have been a reaction not dissimilar to today.”

He said rumours had abounded about the late-Liberal Democrat Cyril Smith, who is accused of abusing young boys – having “peculiar tastes” – but that it would have been the responsibility of the Liberal Party whips to deal with it.

“I didn’t hear rumours he was a paedophile, but I did hear about strange goings-on with young men,” Mr Arnold said.

“But it was a matter for the Liberal whips to sort out, to save embarrassment to their own party.”

“There’s no way they would have missed what was going on. They didn’t need people like me to tell them.”

The assumption would have been that the Liberal whips would have thoroughly investigated the matter, he said.

“At the time I would have assumed they would have got on with it and that it would have been dealt with discreetly; and that if there was something that was illegal, it would have ended up in court.”

“There was an element of not kicking the opponents below the belt. It could happen to any party. But it looks as if they didn’t investigate it properly. Embarrassment to their party was the overriding matter.”

Sir Roger Moate, the Conservative MP for Faversham from 1970 to 1997, said there was a different attitude across the country as a whole.

“It wasn’t a cover-up by the Establishment, it was a general tendency of society,” he said.

“It could be said that the world at large was generally much slacker about backing up such accusations and exploring them.”

“The world was a less conscientious place in many ways. Some things clearly should have been investigated and pursued and weren’t.”

“I don’t see it as a feature of the parliamentary world.”

“There were sex offence cases that were exposed and dealt with very toughly indeed – there were MPs



ROCKED: Westminster is under severe scrutiny following the allegations over a missing sex abuse dossier

who were prosecuted and punished.”

He said he would not have hesitated to report law breaking or abuse, but that whereas he would have trusted the party to do something, whether there would actually be a prosecution was a different matter.

“I would absolutely have reported things. Parliament was just as open to dealing with misdemeanours as it is now,” Sir Roger said.

“But it might not have been taken up by the prosecuting bodies. There has been a change of social attitudes, and some matters then would

have been regarded differently.

“There is total intolerance now, and rightly so. There wasn’t a tolerance back then, but it wasn’t aggressively pursued as it should have been.”

“When it came to prosecution I think there was a feeling that they are not going to do anything about it, so best forget it.”

“That’s the way the world has changed for the better and become a much more decent place.”

Sir Roger rejected accusations of a Parliamentary cover-up outright.

“I am surprised when people say that. I don’t recognise that as a feature of life within Parliament at all,” he said.

“I can assure you that was not the attitude of most backbenchers. We would then, as now, have been genuinely shocked.”

“MPs were just as critical, and as vigorous about criticism, as they are now.”

“I do believe that had I taken complaints to the Government as a humble backbencher they would have been pursued regardless of who it was. It is much more likely that the files went missing through incompetence than conspiracy.”

“I have never heard of any cover-up of paedophilia and I would be very surprised indeed if that had happened.”

Lord Howard,
Former Folkestone MP

Sir Keith Speed was the Conservative Ashford MP from 1974 to 1997. He agrees society was different then.

“I think there was a different climate nationally, not just in the House of Commons,” he told KoS.

“I don’t think there was so much more paedophilia going on and I certainly don’t think it was any more acceptable back then. I just don’t think there was so much publicity about people doing it.”

“I don’t honestly think it would

have struck the average member of Parliament.

“I wasn’t totally daft, but I didn’t know anything about it – and all my closest friends are the same.”

“I knew Geoffrey Dickens quite well, and he never mentioned any of this to me.”

It was the dossier compiled by the late-Geoffrey Dickens MP, that went missing. But Sir Keith said he would have had no qualms about reporting anything illegal or untoward had he been aware of it.

“I would have approached the right minister and made sure that if he didn’t do anything, then the media knew about it,” Sir Keith said.

“And I hope any MP would. If someone is breaking the law in a despicable way and you have reasonable proof then you have a duty to report it.”

“If people had known, I think they would have been concerned.”

“Ordinary backbench members would have been... I would have been. I don’t think they would have said they didn’t want to know.”

“It is important we get to the bottom of all this and the law takes appropriate action if it needs to. Then I hope we can move on, and try not to make the same mistakes again.”

“I don’t like Westminster being tainted with this sort of thing.”

Mr Arnold echoed Sir Keith’s sentiments vigorously.

“I totally agree with Norman Tebbit. This has to be clean now,” he said.

“The reputation of politics depends on it. We need institutions we can respect, and if that means an inquiry and a clean out, even 30 years later, it has to be done.”

“It would be so much easier to sweep it under the carpet, but that wouldn’t be justice done.”

Primary concern is self-survival

Former headteacher **Peter Read** is an education consultant with www.kentadvice.co.uk. Here he investigates the worrying issue of the county's many under pressure primary school leaders...

IN 2012, Kent County Council, worried about the low performance achieved by our primary schools, laid out its strategy to improve standards in 'Delivering Bold Steps for Kent'.

This document set as a central policy aim for 2015: "No KCC schools will be in an Ofsted category of concern. There will be more good schools, with at least 85 per cent of primary and secondary schools judged as good or outstanding".

This article explores some of the unintended consequences of that aim.

Just a year off the target date, Ofsted outcomes for Kent primary schools have actually fallen, compared both with previous performance and also with national norms over the same period.

Since September 2013, 16 Kent primary schools failed their Ofsted out of a total of 103 inspections, three times the national average.

There is a fall in the proportion of good or outstanding schools inspected from last year's dire figures, which placed Kent 133rd out of 151 local authorities – a new low up to the end of May.

In 2012, 61 per cent of Kent's primary schools were classified as good or outstanding, a figure the document described as "clearly unacceptable".

One wonders, therefore, how the authority will describe the current shocking figure of 53 per cent (down again from last year's 56 per cent) compared with a national average of 59 per cent. Thirty of the schools inspected have even seen the grade assessed declining from last time around, with half a dozen of these declining by two grades.

Meanwhile, KCC claims that Ofsted outcomes are improving, thereby showing its strategy for school improvement is working. So how to explain the contradiction?

Quite simply, KCC has included secondary school and special school Ofsted in the total, notably with 83 per cent of the 18 much maligned non-selective schools inspected this year being "good or outstanding", a really praiseworthy statistic which has received insufficient public acknowledgement.

Special schools have 75 per cent of the 12 schools inspected reaching this standard.

Kent's strategy to try and improve the primary schools under its control has included a strong element of pressure, with some headteachers alleging this amounts to bullying, creating a climate of fear.

There has been much debate about KCC's removal of 21 primary school headteachers since September 2012, a similar number leaving their posts with 'encouragement', in the forlorn drive to improve primary school standards.

A Freedom of Information request about headteacher vacancies and recruitment paints an alarming picture of the consequences.

There is a sharp increase in the number of primary headship vacancies across Kent, from 47 two years ago to a forecast 60 for 2013-14.

This is accompanied by an equally sharp fall in the number of applicants for each vacancy from an average of 3.85 per post to 2.33 over the same period, with four posts attracting no applicants and a quarter of all primary headships re-advertised – many of the rest being filled with temporary or part-time appointments.

This does not take into account the growing number of temporary heads of school in place of headteachers, appointed by KCC, governing bodies, federations and academy groups.

Many of these decisions follow unsuccessful attempts to recruit a headteacher, but allow Kent to state that all schools currently have a headteacher or acting headteacher in charge.

KCC argues that there is a national picture of falling numbers of applicants for headships, but

anecdotal evidence clearly identifies a purely Kent factor as many local deputy heads, having seen Kent's tough tactics, have no desire to take up what is now a high risk occupation.

Kent County Council has a protocol in place to replace some headteachers of schools placed in special measures who have been in post for more than two years, but states it does not take

such action with heads of schools in serious weaknesses or requiring improvement.

It also promises to be supportive of heads who are being moved on. I continue to receive reports showing KCC is breaking its own protocol with headteachers, some of whom have given their schools and the county distinguished service, being forcefully removed at short or no notice.

Most worrying for parents is the increasing number of primary schools where the child is not known by anyone apart from an oft-changing class-teacher, with a series of temporary or part-time heads and no improvement in standards.

Something has to change.
■ For more from Peter Read see www.kentadvice.co.uk.

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FREE PARKING

WAR was declared on retailers of so-called 'legal highs' last week as police and trading standards officers combined in a series of co-ordinated raids across the county. Legal highs are substances used like illegal drugs such as cocaine or cannabis but are not covered by current misuse-of-drugs laws and so are legal to possess or to use.

However, major health concerns remain over their use, amid fears they escape legal clampdowns by simply adjusting their chemical compounds.

A number of deaths have been attributed to their use – including those of teenager Hugo Wenn, 17, and his friend Daniel Lloyd, 25, in Canterbury two years ago.

Although these drugs are marketed as legal substances, they haven't been tested or approved for people to use.

However, it has allowed an industry to spring up that focuses on selling the substances over the counter – with many marked as bath salts, research chemical or plant food.

Chief Inspector Lee Russell said: "Just because people have been able to buy something legally does not always mean that it is necessarily safe for human consumption and what worries us greatly is that no one knows precisely what each individual packet contains.

"They haven't been tested and researched in the normal way a chemical substance for human consumption is and there is very little indication as to what is actually inside them.

"There is simply no way of knowing whether new psychoactive substances are safe to ingest, or to understand what the effect is likely to be on the user.

"Analysis of some of these products by other police forces has shown they can also contain controlled drugs."

Now, however, steps have been taken in the county to bring them under control.

This Monday's raids were part of Operation Lantern, which hit 20 shops, seizing more than 400 packets of the pills and powders to send for testing.

It comes amid growing concern about the growth of these stores and the health threats they provide.

Adds Kent County Council trading standards manager Mark Rolfe, who worked alongside his colleagues at Medway Council: "We have been concerned for some time about the dangers posed by these products.

"Three people have died in Kent as a result of taking them.

"Trading Standards and the police have been working together to find an appropriate course of action that will get them off the streets.

"They are easy to buy in high-street shops, they're very dangerous and we want to stop them being supplied in Kent.

"We have had many messages from the public urging us to see what we can do."

Legal highs are believed to have been linked to some 68 deaths nationwide in 2012 alone.

The vendors of the products are

Shining a light on the perils of 'legal highs'



operating in a murky area of the law but not actually doing anything illegal.

The products – with names such as Gocaine and El blanco – are often chemically composed in a very similar way to their illicit counterparts and are designed to mimic the high a user would experience using drugs that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

This is where the difficulty comes in. Because legal highs are not outlawed, there has so far been little that the authorities could do to stop the sale of them.

They are not sold for human consumption but labelled as research chemicals, bath salts or plant food,

although, despite this, it is clear that consumers are ingesting these products.

Now Trading Standards officers believe consumer laws could be used to stop new psychoactive substances from being sold.

They believe that, irrespective of disclaimers such as 'not fit for human consumption', the stores are aware that, once sold, they will be consumed.

Trading Standards claims these products fall under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which prohibit any unsafe product from being supplied.

That means that to comply with consumer law, traders must now know precisely what is in each of the

products they sell and what risks are associated with the ingredients.

As legal highs are not controlled, and not sold to be consumed, they are not subject to testing and regulations, so even products sold in the same packaging could have different chemical compositions.

This means that the vendors are not aware of the ingredients and therefore the risks of the products they are selling.

Before visiting the stores, a letter was sent to the outlets signed by KCC, Medway Council and Trading Standards officers.

It asked the stores to withdraw the

products or risk having them confiscated if they did not adhere to these safety standards.

The shops were warned that if they did not withdraw the products from their shelves, they could be confiscated.

It is the first time in mainland UK that this area of the law has been tested, though it has been used in Belfast, and it will force sellers to display clearly all ingredients on packets or face prosecution.

Chief Insp Russell explained: "You take great risks if you ingest any new psychoactive substance, some of which have been linked to a number of deaths in the UK over the last two years.

"This is why we are taking robust action to support our partner agencies and to help prevent these dangerous substances from being sold in shops throughout Kent."

Canterbury Conservative MP Julian Brazier has been vocal in the fight against legal highs since the death of his two young constituents.

His anger was focused when a branch of the store UK Skunkworks opened in Canterbury.

He told KoS: "Legal highs, with their get-out clause of 'not fit for human consumption', have unfortunately been very harmful for many young people in Britain.

"In 2012, 68 people died after ingesting them and countless others have been hospitalised.

"These people unfortunately thought that because they were legal, they were safe.

"Therefore, I strongly support these raids by Trading Standards and Kent Police and the confiscations involved.

"What we also need is a tightening-up of the law to make enforcement easier.

"This should allow councils to take out injunctions to prevent people selling dangerous products with misleading labelling.

"Then those who do so can be sent to prison."

KoS attempted to speak to a number of the retailers involved in the raids but was unable to obtain a comment.

However, on its website, UK Skunkworks said: "We have been trading for 10 years with stores located all over the south of England.

"All of our products are completely legal in the UK as they do not fall under the Misuse of Drugs Act."

■ What do you think? Should these stores be allowed to operate on our streets? Join the debate and share your views. Write to The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

WHY THE LAW CANNOT CONTROL LEGAL HIGHS

WHILE Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act, new psychoactive substances are not, despite carrying similar risks and creating similar effects for the user.

This is because of the systematic way the businesses flood the legal-high market with their wares.

Legal highs are artificial chemical substances created in labs to mimic the effects of street drugs such as ecstasy but with tiny chemical differences that mean that they do not fall under the legal remit of the controlled substance.

Every time a legal substance is banned, the makers will tweak the chemical composition slightly, therefore creating a slew of new compounds not covered by law and that are ready to fill the hole in the market.

In some cases, the manufacturers will have a new, tweaked formula ready and waiting so there is no down time after a substance is banned.

The legal system simply cannot keep up with the



labs, which are consistently outpacing them.

The problem is one that has become worldwide since the inception of what is believed to have been the first major legal high in 2008.

Mephedrone, also known as Meow Meow, became notorious when it first hit stores; it was later made illegal after being implicated in multiple deaths.

What is future of oldest passenger ferry service across the Thames?

The skipper of the Duchess M, which connects Gravesend and Tilbury, tells **Jamie Weir** about his fears for the historic service

LONG before the days of the Dartford Crossing or the Blackwell Tunnel, to travel from Kent to Essex was a case of getting in a boat and sailing across.

And it would be easy to believe that in this modern era the ferry services that first sprang up in the 13th century have long since dropped anchor and sailed into the history books.

Yet if you wander a few minutes from Gravesend's busy town centre you find yourself cutting between buildings and on to the relatively new Town Pier pontoon, which juts out into the Thames.

And it is here that a transport link that seems to herald from a bygone era continues to operate.

The Lower Thames and Medway Passenger Boat Company Ltd operates a foot passenger service linking Gravesend to Tilbury, just across the water.

Subsidised by Kent County Council and Thurrock Council in Essex, there are 26 services running from the Kent town six days a week – roughly every half an hour.

The journey time is a mere five to 10 minutes on the water, and passengers find themselves in the centre of Tilbury when they dock. A peak return will cost you £5 or £3 off-peak – the same price as a single fare.

The big selling point is there's no need to get stuck in the regular traffic hell that is the Dartford Crossing.

"This ferry service is a slice of Kent's history," explains Captain John Potter, who runs the service.

"It's the oldest passenger ferry crossing anywhere on the Thames and has been operating in one way or another for centuries."

But as the Government ponders locations for a third Thames crossing – with Gravesend and Dartford the two options being considered – the ferry service could find itself torpedoed, despite its long history.

Services between the two towns were first recorded in the 13th century and by 1571 a map sketched by a former mayor of Gravesend clearly showed two jetties where boats could moor.

The Duchess M, which the firm operates today, is the latest in that long and distinguished history.

Built in 1956, it has a capacity of 100 passengers a trip. Annually, it carries some 80,000 passengers each and every year.

Captain Potter has worked on the Thames for more than 50 years, starting out on the river as an apprentice. He took over running the ferry service 12 years ago when the previous firm to run it went out of business.

He told KoS the council had asked him to come on board as the operator and, although reluctant, he had agreed

because of the historic nature and importance of the link between Kent and Essex.

He explained: "It's crucial for anyone who doesn't have a car. They need this service as it's the only way to get to Essex from Kent without going all the way up through London and then doubling back on yourself."

Services start at 5.40am and run up until 7pm.

It has allowed easy access, on both side of the Thames, to another accessible market place, with commuters rubbing shoulders with shoppers or intrigued tourists, on the service. Even children get a wider choice of schools courtesy of the link.

"I'm always amazed at how many people travel on the service," said waterman, former tugmaster and Gravesend councillor Mick Wenban.

"It can get really full up at times, with the boat carrying a full load."

Captain Potter added: "We get a lot of commuters using the ferry service because it's the quickest, easiest and most cost-efficient way for them to get across."

"We get a lot of children using it to get to school as well. Their parents bring them on with them and once they've taken them to school they'll go off shopping in Gravesend."

"Tilbury's very small as a town, so people come across to go to the dentists or opticians and use all of Gravesend's other services, too. We have about 80,000 passengers using the service each year and a lot of locals love it."

A tender document to run the operation went out earlier this year. The existing agreement with Mr Potter's company runs until next March.

Alex Hills, from Meopham, is a regular passenger. He said: "It's a great link from Kent to Essex and absolutely necessary for anyone who doesn't want to drive to Essex."

"If we lost the ferry it would mean an incredibly long rail journey all the way into central London and then back out, which would be a nightmare."

"I know a lot of people who use it for

long bike rides, when they want to go off and explore a bit of Essex, and I've used it to nip across the water quickly. None of those trips would have been possible without the ferry."

Despite its popularity, though, it faces some tough factors – many of them economic.

The Dartford Tunnel's opening in 1963 had a dramatic effect.

Ferries that had carried cars and passengers across the gap since 1927 were discontinued a year after the toll road was opened.

The passenger ferry service, however, survived. But it remains on life support and is dependent on its funding from the local authorities to keep it afloat.

Especially when the tunnels were first expanded and then joined, in 1991, by the opening of the QEII Bridge.

Captain Potter told us: "The future of the crossing has hung in the balance ever since the first Dartford tunnel bore opened. But it's worse now, with more people taking to their cars, and we are constantly under threat of seeing a new Lower Thames Crossing being built. That would be the final nail in the coffin, I reckon."

A decision on that is due later this year. Other issues have had an impact too.

Mr Potter estimates the business has lost some £20,000 over the last year alone since Tilbury power station closed in October 2013 with the loss of about 220 jobs.

He said: "The service is on life support right now. I've got three crews who work the service, as well as office staff. If we were to close, 10 people would lose their jobs. It's only because of the subsidy we get from the council that we're still able to operate. Without that, we'd be finished."

But while the Dartford crossing has taken a lot of business away from the ferry, it has also given a bit back.

He said: "One bonus is that quite regularly the crossing is an utter mess, and more often than not has massive queues and congestion. We've actually seen people who've decided to take the ferry rather than sit around at the toll crossing stuck in traffic."

Passengers, however, have come to rely on the service and would clearly oppose any cost-saving at the expense of the service.

Adds passenger Alex Hills: "Even if it does require a subsidy, it must be maintained. This link is so important and has real heritage. I remember using the crossing with my parents as a child. It would be incredibly sad if we lost it now."

KoS approached KCC for a comment on the future of the service, but it refused to comment.



PRESENT & PAST: The Duchess M plying her trade between Kent and Essex (top & above) and one of her steam-powered forebears (below)

Picture: NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM



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HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS: Silver screen legend Gregory Peck



ROYALTY: The Duke of Edinburgh



GLAMOUR PUSS: Britain's own 'Monroe', Diana Dors, was regular visitor

Airport remembers its A-list passenger list

Anniversary conjures up time when stars and royalty were regular faces at Lydd, writes **Chris Murphy**

By **Chris Murphy**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SIXTY years ago Lydd Airport took off for the first time, quickly establishing itself as one of Europe's busiest – and most glamorous – airports.

Hard to believe today, as the rural airfield eyes a future where it hopes to recapture at least a slice of those past glories.

But the airport was once a bustling hub used by many Hollywood superstars of the time as they toured

around Europe for fun and business.

Among the big names to grace its tarmac were iconic silver screen idols Dirk Bogarde and Diana Dors and royalty in the Duke of Edinburgh.

Keith Dagwell is president of the Silver City Association. It celebrates Silver City Airways, which used Lydd all those years ago and has researched some of the key moments to mark the airport's 60th anniversary.

During one of his many trips to and from Lydd, the Duke of Edinburgh caused something of a stir.

Mr Dagwell, who worked there for a decade, explained: "The duke, as a

pilot himself, liked to get involved. He often flew the aircraft across to Le Touquet in France.

"On one particular trip he got on board and the pilot asked him if he wanted to close the nose door, which he did.

"These doors had three latches which all need pushing into the locked position, and the duke did this too. But unbeknown to any of the staff, the night before the engineering department had given these a nice fresh coat of some very sticky red paint, and of course, they had not dried properly.

"His hands were left covered in this paint, so a fast runner was sent off to the hangar to bring some cleaning materials and the duke cleaned himself up.

"He took this in great humour and saw the funny side, but it was a little embarrassing."

Other celebrities who passed included legendary actors Gregory Peck and David Niven.

Mr Dagwell said: "Although we did have a lot of celebrities come through the airport, many of them were very good and posed for pictures for a minute or so.

"But they still wanted to remain private and we understood that."

Lydd rode on a major wave of success until the cross-Channel holiday business changed completely, and the large ferrys leaving regularly from Dover drove prices so low, airlines could no longer compete.

Today the airport is run by Lydd Holdings and is better known as London Ashford.

The company is confident of once more building a market, and has so far spent £35 million upgrading the site – and intends to build a new terminal and runway extension.

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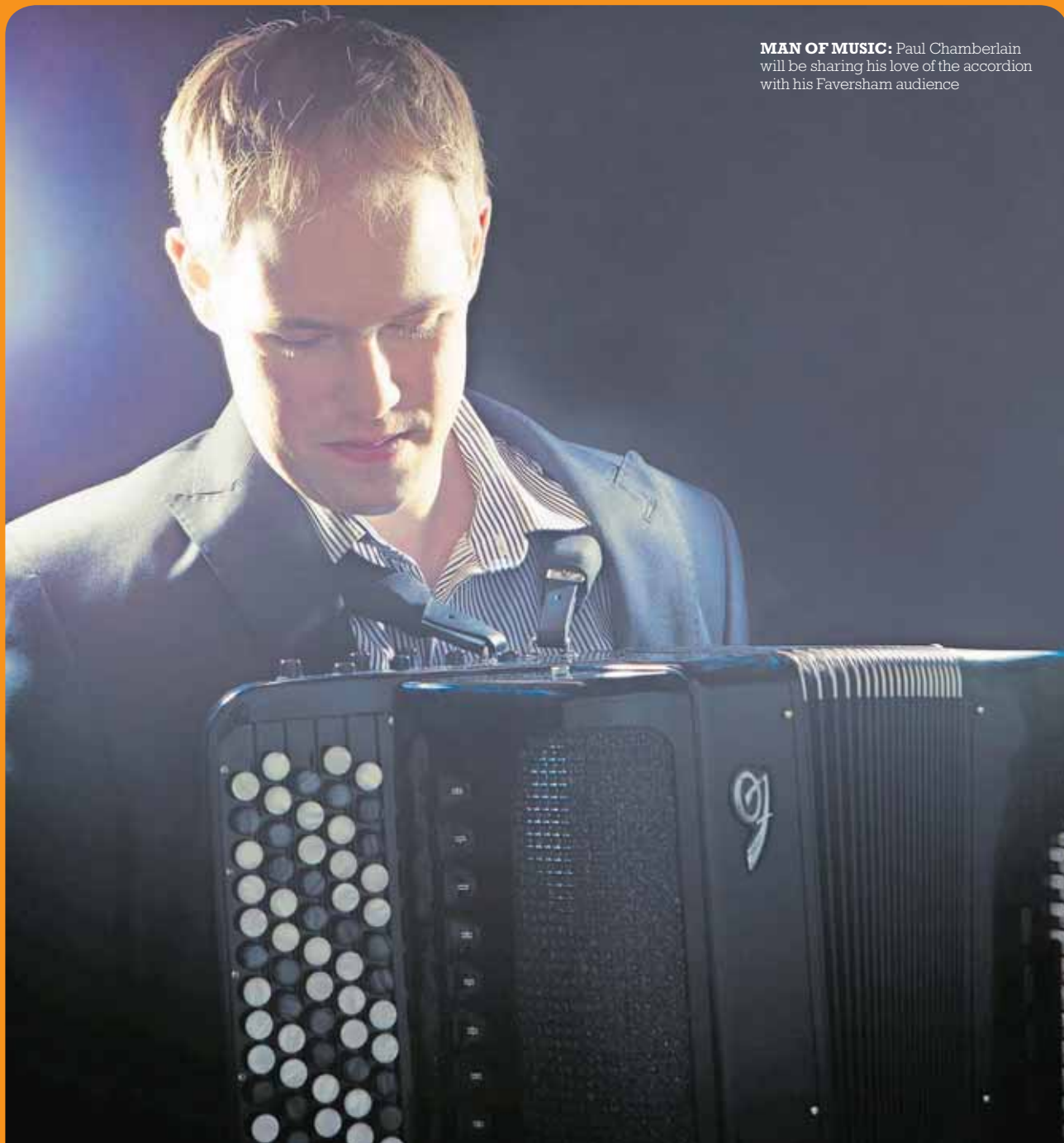
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MAN OF MUSIC: Paul Chamberlain will be sharing his love of the accordion with his Faversham audience



A classical musician who presses the right buttons

The accordion is the instrument of choice for Paul Chamberlain. He tells **David Mairs** about his music.

THE accordion does not benefit from the widespread familiarity enjoyed by most other instruments. For some of us, it is a thing of recent history, associated with jolly characters entertaining day-trippers to our seaside resorts.

Such a view, however, does it a disservice. The accordion – in essence a small portable organ – is a delightful, versatile instrument

with a wealth and range of sound that sets it apart from many others.

Even so, it has been subject to no small degree of snobbery by this country's classical-music fraternity, who have rarely afforded it a place in their ranks.

Things are very different elsewhere, though, says classical accordionist Paul Chamberlain.

"In Russia it's very much a mainstream classical instrument," he said. "In the 1960s it was

pushed a lot in the Soviet states, which is why it is a much more grounded thing there than here.

"Having said that, there are a number of relatively new pieces that include the accordion and it is gradually attracting more interest."

Its musical virtues, and indeed those of Chamberlain, will be presented at Faversham Parish Church this month when the

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« Continued from page 31

musician will play music from his new CD, *Accordion Sensations*.

That the accordion is finding a greater regard in the world of classical music he puts down to the development of its 'free-bass' system, whose arrangement of single notes on both sides of the instrument dispatches the restrictions of pre-set chords on its left-hand side.

"It gives you a whole chord accompaniment," he said.

It sounds complex stuff for those of us not versed in the ways of musicianship, but there is nothing exclusive about the accordion.

"It's an instrument that can do all styles of music," said Chamberlain.

Even so, you suspect that the world of classical accordion is something of a niche market.

"I suppose it is," he said. "There are a handful of players, but I was one of the first at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland."

His credentials are impressive, but artists in any medium depend on inspiration as much as teaching and certificates and he found it while at the conservatoire.

"There was an amazing Serbian teacher," he said. "He was inspirational and pushed the instrument, but it took a while before the accordion was accepted into the keyboard department."

Scotsman Chamberlain (he hails from Melrose) is no stranger to Kent. No stranger to Faversham even, having performed at the town's Arden Theatre in July last year.

His appearance there was pure serendipity.



SQUEEZE TO PLEASE: Paul Chamberlain is helping the accordion gain wider acceptance among classical circles

"There were a couple of Ukrainian players meant to perform, but there was an issue with their visas," he said. "In the event they were able to make it and so we did half and half."

The Arden was full to capacity and Chamberlain opened the concert with Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D

Minor, a piece that he says "transfers beautifully" to the accordion.

To close the evening, he joined with the pair – the Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo, for the record – in a special rendition of Piazzolla's Libertango.

Will this year's Faversham

audience be treated to a similar repertoire?

"There'll be classical, yes, along with pieces from my CD, Balkan music and tango."

With him for the Faversham performance will Michael Haywood, who plays fiddle and saxophone.

"We can do quite interesting things," said Chamberlain.

"A number of people on the scene haven't come across the accordion in this format. It's always great to have people come along who have no idea what to expect. It's not like with, say, a string quartet where you know exactly what's coming."

But it's to Russia that we return. Such is the love there for his music – and indeed that of his countrymen – that Chamberlain has performed in that vast nation five times.

"There's a huge fondness for Scottish music in the country – there's a strong link between Scottish and Russian music," he said.

"I watched a céilidh band with a great following – the place was thronged with young people absolutely loving it. You'd be hard-pushed to get that here."

As for the accordion, Chamberlain acknowledges that there is work to be done to spread the message.

"It's one of those things that has an appeal to a certain age group," he said. "The average young person in this country hasn't come across it."

He has played venues as imposing as cathedrals, so how will his music translate in the more intimate environment of a church?

"The accordion has such a dynamic range and the church acoustics will draw that out. It will be grand."

■ Paul Chamberlain and Michael Haywood will be at Faversham Parish Church on Sunday, July 20, at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Tickets are priced at £12.50; phone Victor Frith on 01795 590588 or email frithj@btinternet.com. All profits to Save The Children Fund.



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'Relaxed' performance offers a whole new experience

TICKETS have gone on sale for the first 'relaxed' performance at The Marlowe Theatre.

A relaxed performance is designed and adapted for people with a range of disabilities, including those in the autistic spectrum.

They are now commonplace at some London theatres and cinemas.

The performance, of Aladdin, will be less formal to reduce anxiety levels. For example, the auditorium doors will be kept open and customers can come and go as they please; there will be a chill-out zone in the foyer.

There are small changes to sound levels and lighting, with no pyrotechnics or strobe lighting used. The performance provides an

opportunity for those who may find it difficult to come and see a show to experience the joy of live theatre.

One such person is Jodie Mills, of Canterbury, mother to five-year-old Stanley and Thomas, who is four and has autism. She is passionate about giving Thomas the same access and opportunities as other children.

"Some people are lucky enough to get that enjoyment from standard performances, but all of us are different and to have other needs considered makes the difference between having that opportunity and sadly not," she said.

Aladdin will be Jodie and Thomas's first relaxed performance and she believes they will both benefit from it. "I'm hoping for a much more

relaxed Thomas – less pressure on him to conform is just one way he'll be able to cope with his anxieties and other issues," she said.

Theatre director Mark Everett is delighted The Marlowe is offering its first relaxed performance: "To be able to offer customers with different access needs their own performance is amazing.

"And judging by the response we have had, it is one that is much needed and warmly welcomed."

'Relaxed' Aladdin is at The Marlowe Theatre at 1pm on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.

Tickets, priced at £10, are available via 01227 787787, or in person. For more information, email sarah.munday@marlowetheatre.com.

MAGIC: Jodie, Thomas and Stanley with Aladdin star Phil 'Mister Maker' Gallagher



Passport to 'summers' of fun with heritage deal

THE summer holidays can be an expensive time for parents, so English Heritage is helping out with a special offer.

Parents can get 15 months' membership for the price of 12 when they pay by direct debit, hence getting two summers of unlimited family days out for the price of one.

For £86 this great-value passport to hundreds of historic attractions provides unlimited free days for two adults and up to six children (under 19 and within the family group).

English Heritage members have free entry to more than 400 sites countrywide, including 116 castles and forts, 59 prehistoric sites and a Cold War bunker.

In Kent, youngsters can see wartime action at Dover Castle, dip into science at the home of Charles Darwin, Down House, or play Roman board games at Lullingstone's Roman Villa.

For families taking a holiday in England there are plenty of places to explore while away, ranging from Stonehenge to Hadrian's Wall.

Membership also gives free or reduced-price entry to 135 colourful historic events in July and August alone, including Dover Castle's Roman Festival on Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27; Clash of Knights on Saturday and Sunday, August 16-17; and Siege! from Saturday to Monday, August 23-25, as well as Punch & Judy at Walmer Castle and Gardens on selected weekends in July.

You can buy membership by visiting www.english-heritage.org.uk/ membership or phoning 0870 333 1182.

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www.sanctuaryofhealing.co.uk

New adaptation of Romeo and Juliet takes its cues from Game of Thrones and The Three Musketeers

GAME of Thrones meets the Three Musketeers in the latest countywide open-air production by Changeling Theatre.

Its version of Romeo and Juliet delves into popular culture by incorporating aspects of these two recent hit TV series.

And the character of Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, is clearly influenced by Eurovision Song Contest winner Conchita Wurst.

Director Rob Forknall said he had "brought a modern interpretation to the script", plus exciting sword-fight scenes, the music of Will.i.am and "a very handsome cast".

That cast includes, as Juliet, Jess Rose Boyd, who recently appeared in BBC One's swashbuckling series The Musketeers, and Aaron Sidwell, who has played Steven Beale in East Enders. Sidwell plays Romeo's rival Tybalt, with Ben Wiggins as Romeo.

Boyd said: "Romeo and Juliet is not just a love story. It's a story about brotherhood and revenge. Much like The Musketeers, I guess, it shows the lengths we will go to honour and protect the ones we love. Plus, the sword fights are awesome."

Those sword-fight scenes have been choreographed by David Broughton Davies, one of the fight directors for the Pirates of the Caribbean films.

Director Forknall described the costume style as "renaissance modern", influenced by the Tudors mixed with Alexander McQueen.

"Our designer, Clare Southern, felt McQueen's designs for his final grand show were incredible and would

Honour, love, fashion and some great sword fights



CHANGELING THEATRE: Director Rob Forknall promises a modern script from his 'very handsome cast'

work very well mixed with the fashions of the late 16th century."

The tale of Romeo and Juliet has many parallels with Game of Thrones, he said... warring families, bitter brawls and impossible love.

"The fight scenes are slick and brutal, often with a live score increasing the tension."

"Whether it's the battles, the relationships or the storytelling you enjoy about Game of Thrones, our production will deliver."

Romeo and Juliet opened at Boughton Monchelsea Place last month and is now touring the county in the open air for five weeks.

It finishes with another three-day run at the same venue on August 1-3. Remaining dates are:

- July 16: Biddenden Vineyards
- July 17: Great Comp Garden, Platt
- July 18: Tithe Barn, Lenham
- July 19: Margate main sands
- July 20: Eastwell Manor, Ashford
- July 22: The Hawth, Crawley
- July 23: Nurstead Court, Meopham
- July 24: Dog and Duck leisure park, Plucks Gutter
- July 25: The Friars, Aylesford
- July 26-27: Walled Nursery, Hawkhurst
- July 29: Swarling Manor, Canterbury
- July 30: Rochester Castle gardens
- July 31: Nurstead Court, Meopham

Bookings can be made at www.changeling-theatre.com/tickets.

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We are delighted to be able to bring you the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards

YOUR nominations are being encouraged for the 2014 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Tudor Park Marriott Hotel and Country Park, Bearsted, near Maidstone, on November 13, 2014, from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to Kent's outstanding food and drink industry.

From local producers and suppliers to small farming businesses, restaurants, chefs, pubs and hoteliers, all will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies featured will be nominated by you, our wonderful Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or been impressed by the produce and service at your local farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here if you prefer to enter by post. Photocopied forms are acceptable. You can also enter your favourite online at our awards website kentfda.co.uk or you can email us your nomination at kentfda@archant.co.uk.

Nominations close on August 1, 2014. Our hand-picked panel of high-profile judges, who all live and work in Kent, then select a short-list.

This kickstarts the independent judging process, when all the finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each of the 12 categories.

All finalists will be invited to the awards ceremony in November, when they will enjoy a fabulous reception and three-course meal

prepared by Tudor Park's talented head chef Tom Biddle before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our second Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

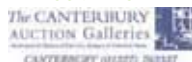
These awards are what you, our readers, make of them, so if you are the owner of a pub or restaurant, a chef or local producer, then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to nominate your favourite. You can email, post or enter your nomination online. The judging panel is looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations, so that everybody is in with a chance, no matter how big or small their business.

Don't forget to let us know on our Twitter pages @kentlife and @KOSMedia when you have made your nomination, by using #kentfda - similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

BUTCHER OF THE YEAR



This is your chance to praise your local butcher and everything they do. Consider asking your butcher how their meat is hung, prepared and cut and whether it can be traced to a local farm. Are the staff knowledgeable and helpful? Do they suggest new cuts for you to try? Do they use their expertise to prepare meat ready for the oven? Does your butcher play a key role within the local community? If so, nominate them!

TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR



Tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam homemade and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Do they make tea feel like a special event? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing all about your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



New this year, this category celebrates our local food producers. We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top-quality local produce and service to their customers. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, we'd like you to share it with us. If your local baker, grocer or farmer delights, let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



New this year, this category celebrates our local drink producers. Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy. We want to know who you think makes the best drink in Kent, alcoholic or not, and why it is so special. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example a fabulous new flavour, we'd like to hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR



A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable? Is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard? Does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm or nearby, and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from? Nominate your favourite now!

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there

AWARDS CRITERIA

grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is the market well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance and is there good accessibility and parking? Let us know so we can tell everyone about the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We are looking for an inn that also offers delicious and locally-sourced food with seasonal variations. As well as excellent food and drink, it must offer fantastic friendly customer service and real value for money. Good pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community. To misquote a popular TV programme, "pubs are all about ambience, ambience, ambience". If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know by voting for them.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and, most importantly, the food. Are the ingredients locally sourced, do they support local producers and, if so, are they recognised on the menu? Look through their wine list - do they have local as well as international wines and fizz and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from the 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted himself or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Another category that's new this year is Customer Service of the Year. Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake. Do you know an individual, organisation or establishment offering consistently excellent service that goes above and beyond what you expect? We all know great service when we have received it - now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, tell us.

KENT FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR



Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK, as you would expect from the Garden of England. This category celebrates the individual who has made a positive impact on the food or drink community - someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent Food and Drink Hero.



Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2014 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form, or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

Please post your entry form to:
 Food & Drink Awards 2014,
 Archant KOS Media,
 Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth,
 Ashford TN25 6SS

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to
 advertise your entry are available at
www.kent-life.co.uk and at
www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is
 Friday, August 1, 2014.

Name.....

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By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database. Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.



■ Our 2013 Kent Food and Drink Hero, Stephanie Hayman, above, who has revolutionised school meals in east Kent. Who will be your choice of Hero for the 2014 top award?

Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

Sponsored by Canterbury Auction Galleries

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Food Producer of the Year

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Farmers' Market of the Year

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Chef of the Year

Sponsored by Britelite

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Butcher of the Year

Sponsored by Bybrook Barn

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Drinks Producer of the Year

Sponsored by Anchor & Hope

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Pub of the Year

Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

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Customer Service of the Year

Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

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Tea Shop of the Year

Sponsored by Gerald Lukehurst

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your say...

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Arch fails to show sacrifice of troops

AS an ex-member of HM Forces (Army) I believe the expenditure of £600,000 – 66 per cent being paid by the taxpayer – is an obscene amount of money expended on a monument that does not fairly represent the sacrifice of those who passed through Folkestone towards the Western Front.

I would expect that the majority of these First World War service personnel would far rather wish for this money to be spent on survivors of more recent conflicts (Northern Ireland, Falklands Islands, the Gulf Wars, Iraq and Afghanistan) who have suffered and are not being given the appropriate help and treatment (where necessary) to get their lives back together.

Rather than placate the egos of politicians with this over-blown edifice.

A far simpler, cheaper and more evocative memorial would have sufficed. Go to any Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and see what I mean – the headstones show the way!

Andy Robinson, Canterbury

It's just a great big advert for fast food

I STOOD at the top of the Road of Remembrance looking past the wonderful granite plinth with the statue commemorating the fallen soldiers, and then I looked at the stupid and very costly arch that means nothing except to the building next door... McDonald's.

What a great free advert for them!

What idiot thinking that without thinking ahead? Isn't there anyone in government positions with a brain?

What a waste of half a million pounds or more.

John R. O'Neon, via email

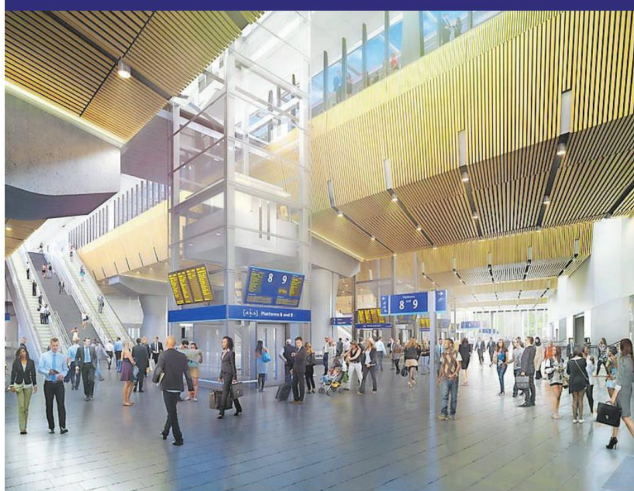
Why the fuss over this monument?

I STRUGGLE to understand what people object to with regard the arch in Folkestone.

Millions of young men were given no choice other than to leave the comfort of their homes and families and go to fight a brutal war on foreign soil. They were not career soldiers who opted to serve their country, but conscripts. Many made the ultimate sacrifice.

Yet today we seem obsessed with praising soldiers who know what they are letting themselves in for,

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Long-suffering train-users need fare freeze

AS a daily commuter to London Bridge from west Kent, I completely back the call to minimise disruption during the extensive upgrade programme to London Bridge station.

I back the call by the Sevenoaks Rail Travellers' Association and others for free tube and bus travel between London terminus stations – Charing Cross, Waterloo, London Bridge, Cannon Street and Victoria – for rail ticket-holders, allowing people more journey options to avoid overcrowding, especially at times of disruption.

I would also like to see significant improvements in passenger information, which is often a problem at such times of rail improvements.

While the railway industry is making £6.5 billion investment in London Bridge infrastructure as part of Thameslink, there is so far no allocated expenditure for vital passenger information systems to

help commuters cope with the lengthy disruption.

I also support a fare freeze during the disruption period as acknowledgement that the service would be well below what passengers are normally paying for.

Kent commuters have been and continue to be long-suffering. We have experienced above-inflation rises over recent years, while services have frequently fallen below the service expected.

While improvements to the system are no doubt overdue and necessary, and delays sometimes unavoidable, those who use and pay for these services on a day-to-day basis and depend upon them for their livelihoods surely deserve much better provision against potential disruption, and adequate compensation and accurate information when things go badly wrong.

Dr Alan Bullion, Tunbridge Wells

rather than the millions who did not.

H Hunter, Ashford

Magpie situation has been confused

RATHER than clarifying the situation regarding magpies, I fear

your corresponding BASC life member has rather confused the issue further.

It is illegal to kill any wild bird or destroy their nests or eggs.

As he states, there are exceptions to this for some species where farmers or landowners can show a negative impact on crops or livelihoods.

A legal defence of protection of bird populations would, in theory, be a difficult case to prove in a court of law.

Well over 80 per cent of the UK's land surface is farmed or managed in one way or another, and not all being covered in concrete, as urban-dwellers may understandably perceive.

Crows, including magpies, are an intelligent and adaptable family that are largely scavengers and opportunists.

They have therefore taken well to suburban and urban parks and gardens, where they are more visible and will chance upon the unfortunate nestlings that make up around 2 per cent of their diet.

Far from being a 'criminal' act to watch a magpie taking unfortunate fledglings, it is merely to witness an act of nature in the raw that has gone on for thousands of years.

It is dangerous to ascribe emotive adjectives such as 'harmful' to a bird if it happens to kill another bird and conclude that we should race to the gun cupboard and blast them out of the sky for doing what they do.

To carry this odd logic further, why not vent our wrath on the blackbird pulling a worm out of our lawn, or a kingfisher bashing the brains out of a stickleback on a branch, or the awful barn owl that snatches an innocent vole by its neck – or even the blue tit that murders thousands of caterpillars (baby butterflies) to feed their young?

Shock, horror – nature happens!

Andrew South, Dymchurch

Most water comes from the aquifers

WITH regards to your article on water shortages in Kent.

Firstly, there is a public perception that we get our water from Bewl Water reservoir and others – this is not true as the bulk of our water comes from the aquifers (90 per cent).

The reason for this is that it is cheaper for water companies to abstract from groundwater and purify it than obtain it from the reservoirs, which costs far more to clean and purify.

Secondly, abstraction of water is not only carried out by water companies – water is abstracted by farmers, who use vast amounts.

This is monitored, but unless they use it for trickle irrigation (which in effect is an excuse to use as much as they like) the quantities of this are just estimated.

There is no control of this during a drought.

Bruce Grant, via email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



St Margaret's at Cliffe memorial

by **Georgia Makin,**
St Margaret's

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FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as sunset days, WLTm not too devout male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTm likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

CHRISTINA curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

SUSIE, married, adventurous/dominant lady, 38yrs, seeks discreet man any age/area for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 412285

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418771

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves male, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137

CAROLINE blonde curvy active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 6ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busty, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wooed, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/active, WLTm fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs. GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 11ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

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LADY 60, size 12, easy going, likes animals, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411301

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60's, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/active, WLTm fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

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25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408249

KAREN blonde, long legged, many interests, very young looking, outgoing, adventurous, likable, WLTm my soul mate, could that be you? pls call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407953

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? call me if you're normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411045

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408879

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

RETIRE male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

RETIRE male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets, meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407317

MALE 67, professional, fit, 5ft 10ins, medium build, reliable, tactile, likes most things, seeks slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407855

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DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

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ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

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PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar

Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...



An express way to enjoy the hols

LOOKING for something unusual to do this summer holiday?

Sittingbourne's Steam Railway will be open on Wednesdays (hourly 1pm-4pm) and Sundays (hourly 11am-4pm) through August.

With picnic areas, a wildlife garden, shop and café, there's plenty to see and do.

Find out about the exciting plans to Sort Out Sittingbourne and how you can help.

Ivor the Engine returns to Kemsley Down on Sunday and Monday, August 24-25, for bank-holiday fun. Ivor-related gifts, books and DVDs will be available from the shop.

Visit www.skrl.net or phone 01795 424899 for more information.

Oh boy! Buddy Holly's musical legacy makes a welcome return to the county

NOW in its 25th year, the sensational multi-award-winning Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story will be returning to The Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

This long-running show continues to delight audiences on every visit and this upcoming week-long run is no exception.

Forget feel-good, Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story is feel great!

Experience the drama, passion and excitement as a cast of phenomenally talented actors and musicians tell Buddy's story; from his meteoric rise to fame to his final legendary performance at The Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Seen by more than 22 million fans since it opened in London's West End in 1989, Buddy speaks an international language and has audiences from eight to 80 rockin' in the aisles worldwide.

Featuring two terrific hours of the greatest songs ever written, such as That'll Be The Day, Oh Boy, Rave On, La Bamba, Chantilly Lace, Johnny B. Goode, Raining In My Heart, Everyday, Shout and many more,

this show is just Peggy Sue-perb!

Buddy's widow, Maria Elena Holly, said of the show's latest milestone: "When we opened the show we never imagined Buddy's music and story would still be rocking stages and entertaining audiences around the world week in week out 25 years later.

"I believe this is testament to a great show – the first of its kind – and to the enduring appeal of Buddy Holly and what he represents: a youthful energy, huge talent and creativity, combined with a determination to make a lasting impression in this world.

"He was certainly a one-off, as the show demonstrates. It's incredible to witness subsequent generations getting carried away in Buddy's music – proof that his spirit lives on through all of us."

The show will be at The Orchard Theatre from Monday to Saturday, July 21-26. Pre-show dining is also available.

For more information, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone the ticket office on 01322 220000.



HIT MACHINE: The multi-award-winning Buddy Holly Story is back in Kent

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE



MON 21 - SAT 26 JULY



SUN 27 - MON 28 JULY



DAWN FRENCH

WED 30 JULY - SAT 2 AUGUST



ONE MAN TWO GUVNORS

MON 4 - SAT 9 AUGUST

The Restaurant
AT THE ORCHARD THEATRE

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PRE-SHOW DINING!

BOOK ONLINE: ORCHARDTHEATRE.CO.UK
TICKET OFFICE: 01322 220000



Sittingbourne's Steam Railway

SOS - Help us Sort Out Sittingbourne - <http://www.skrl.net/about-us/donate-support/>



Trains will be running on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout August, departing Sittingbourne Viaduct hourly 1-4pm also 11am and 12pm on Sundays.

Ivor the Engine Weekend

Sunday/Monday 24/25th August
Trains hourly 11am-4pm for Ivor the Engine fun at Kemsley Down

www.skrl.net info@skrl.net 01795 424899

[@SandKLR](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SandKLR)

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WW1 Family Activities

Activity Times: 10.30am-3.30pm (Mon-Fri)



This summer at the Royal Engineers Museum, join us for a range of family activities

29th July - 1st August

Now you see me

5th - 8th August

Special delivery!

12th - 15th August

Surveying and communication

19th - 22nd August

Ready, Aim!

26th - 29th August

Fieldwork



www.re-museum.co.uk

Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...

Sports centre promises a racket to keep the kids quiet this holiday



THE King's Rochester Sports Centre (KRSC, formerly The Stirling Centre) has been owned and managed by King's Rochester School since October 2012.

The centre was acquired and refurbished to the tune of £500,000 not only to provide top sporting facilities for King's pupils but also – and very importantly – to provide the local community with some of the best and most affordable leisure and sporting amenities in the area.

As a 'dual-use' centre, facilities cater for all dry-side sports, recreational activities, private functions and conference hire.

Throughout the summer at KRSC, we are offering summer holiday activities sessions as well as tennis camps on our brand-new LTA-approved tennis courts.

Our Multi Sports Activity Programme is available to children aged six to 15 from Monday, July 28, to Friday, August 29. These daily

sessions are filled with fun, sporty and creative activities to keep your children entertained all through the summer break.

Our tennis camps are available to everyone from the age of five.

Sign up for either our four- or five-day camps and receive coaching from LTA Level 4 coach Marc Phillips.

KRSC tennis camps run throughout the summer break and there are also pay-and-play sessions at the weekends.



Popular beer festival and nostalgia weekend reason to celebrate



NOW in its fifth year, the Beer, Cider and Music Festival at the Farriers Arms, Mersham, has become a very popular event for all ages.

Starting on the evening of Friday, July 25, and continuing over the weekend in the field beside the pub, the festival will be offering a range of real ales and ciders.

Come and choose from more than 80 interesting beverages from a variety of microbreweries and local cider-makers.

A variety of food, wines and cocktails will be available, as well as

children's games and local stalls, all accompanied by live music in the marquee.

The pub's equally popular Fabulous 40s/50s Weekend (August 2-3) provides a wonderful day out with many vintage vehicles, from classic cars, bikes and military lorries to static engines, together with vintage stalls, food tents and refreshments.

Relax to Swingtime Sweethearts, jazz and 40s/50s music, dance along with the Lindy Hop Dancers, or let your youngsters enjoy all the games.

Saturday's visitors can watch a 40s-style wedding, while on Sunday the Military Wives Choir takes the stage. You can also have a bet on duck-racing in the river for charity drivers of vintage vehicles.

Visitors dressed in 40s/50s style have free entry.

Both events:

Camping for tents and caravans/ motor homes – please book. Free car-parking.

For more details and entry prices (pre-purchase discount), visit www.thefarriersarms.com.

FARRIERS ARMS • MERSHAM

Off M20 at Junction 10 - postcode TN25 6NU

5th Beer Cider & Music Festival

FRI 25 • SAT 26 • SUN 27 JULY

**40+ REAL ALES • LOCAL CIDERS • WINES • MUSIC
FOOD TENTS • CRAFT STALLS • CHILDRENS GAMES**



FABULOUS 40'S/50'S WEEKEND

Sat 2nd • Sun 3rd AUGUST

**CLASSIC CARS & MILITARY VEHICLES • BARS & FOOD TENTS
40s/50s MUSIC & DANCE • FAMILY FUN • CHARITY EVENTS
at both events CAMPING & CARAVANS please book**

www.thefarriersarms.com

01233 720444



Summer
Holiday
2014

ACTIVITIES &
TENNIS CAMPS



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Take away some of the pressure this summer and let us entertain your child at our Summer Holiday Activity sessions. Our fully supervised sessions are full of fun-packed sporting and creative activities designed to keep your child occupied throughout the day. We have four different time slots available, giving you the opportunity to choose a session that suits your hectic schedule.

Activity Dates: 28th July - 29th August 2014 (Mon-Fri) **Age Group:** 6 - 15 years old

Available Times:

Daytime Sessions.....	10am - 4pm	£14.00
All Day Sessions (Inc. breakfast & dinner).....	8am - 6pm	£17.50
Morning Sessions (Inc. breakfast).....	8am - 12.30pm	£11.00
Afternoon Sessions (Inc. dinner).....	1.30pm - 6pm	£12.00

*Day Admissions apply for non-members

OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Football Basketball Volleyball Hockey Mini Tennis Rounders Netball Team Games Bouncy Castle Trampoline Kwik Cricket Rollerskating Arts & Crafts Quizzes Competitions and much more.....

SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS 2014

Throughout the Summer Holidays join us for our 5 day Tennis Camps and Tournaments with our new LTA Tennis Coach, Marc Phillips.

• Mini Red Camps ages 5 - 8 years.....	£33.75	(1.5 hours)
• Mini Orange Camps ages 8 & 9 years.....	£33.75	(1.5 hours)
• Mini Green Camps ages 10 years.....	£33.75	(1.5 hours)
• Junior Camps ages 11+ years.....	£33.75	(1.5 hours)

*Day Admissions apply for non-members

Alternatively, if you can't commit to one of our camps, join our Pay & Play sessions being held every weekend throughout the holidays - these sessions also include our LTA coach.



Call us now for more information!



T: 01634 818422 E: enquiries@kingssportscentre.co.uk
www.kingssportscentre.co.uk
King's Rochester Sports Centre 601 Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3QJ

Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...



An Edith May day you'll remember

THE Thames barge Edith May is a fully-restored historic ship available for sailing charter trips on the River Medway or as a unique static venue.

During the winter months, she is open as a tea room at her berth in Lower Halstow.

The 86ft coasting barge was originally built in 1906 for carrying wheat and grain products. She also had a successful racing career before falling into disrepair during the 1990s.

Bought by her current owner in 1999, an extensive restoration programme was undertaken to return her to former glories.

Now the Edith May Trading Company invite you to join them on this beautiful ship.



Wine and dine on the river

EMBANKMENTS restaurant is the only permanently-moored floating restaurant in the county and is unique in design to the whole of south-east England.

We are situated on the River Medway behind the grand architecture of Maidstone's Archbishop's Palace, where the turn-of-the-century street lighting creates a warm glow to the quay and riverside.

This experience is carried through as you enter into the restaurant's internal areas with our warm lighting and art deco-style design and decor.

We have just created a new alfresco sun-deck area where you can relax in the sun while watching the boats and river's wildlife pass by.

We cater for more than 80 covers outside where you can

enjoy our great food, just pop in for a drink or enjoy both.

Our unique restaurant boasts great food and wine presented through a range of specially-created menus, designed to complement each other and provide our customers a dining experience to be savoured for its quality and, as importantly in today's economic climate, value for money.

Rewarding experience of teaching young to swim

ANGELA'S Swim School is pleased to present the joint owners of the Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells franchises.

Jenna Pembroke learnt to swim with Angela's Swim School from a young age and believes the unique way she was taught helped her to become the successful swimmer she is now, transferring those techniques into the way she teaches today.

For Claire Bentley, her children were the reason she became a swimming instructor.

She has worked with Angela's Swim School for three years and loves the rewarding experience of watching children gain confidence in the water.

Call to book one of our locations at Hilton Hotel or the Mercure Hotel in Maidstone, Skeethill Orpington, West Heath School in Sevenoaks or St Michael's in Otford.

All instructors with Angela's Swim School are CRB-checked and ASA-qualified. Phone 07703 185837.



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Sign up For Summer

£5 off the summer courses

Sign up for Summer by 6th July receive 5 pounds off the course

Lessons for children of all ages and abilities from parent and baby to beginners. Improvers to more advanced swimmers, life saving skills, rookie lifeguard and adult lessons. Group and 121 private lessons available. Weekly lessons at all locations are available.

BOOK NOW at all our new locations

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Keep an eye out for: 5 week summer school in your area!

We now have classes covering Sevenoaks Dartford Maidstone Orpington Rochester Gravesend and Medway

www.angelasswimschool.co.uk

Places limited call today **01474 878248** quoting 'Splish and Splash'

SMALL CLASS SIZES

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Join us for cold wine, beer or cocktails & BBQ on our new sun deck and floating beer garden listening to chilled music or watching live Sports on 3 large screens & Pedalo boat Hire.

Enjoy freshly prepared Kentish produce in our **Surf "n" Turf Restaurant**

Large choice of fish - shell fish - steaks & Kentish farmed meats.

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Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...



Get in the saddle with Park Farm

PARK Farm Riding School is a small, smartly-kept yard of horses and ponies.

Situated in the village of Preston within easy reach of Canterbury, Thanet and Dover, it caters solely for children, offering lessons after school and on weekends, or afternoon sessions for school groups.

The aim is to educate children to become kind, effective riders.

Park Farm offers well-planned lessons up to BHS Stage 1, Pony Club Awards up to gold standard and a range of school-holiday activities including Summer Residential Camps and Summer Shows.

For more details, visit www.parkfarmridingschool.co.uk or phone 01227 728349.

Let your little 'uns become Nature Nuts

A SUMMER of fun, friendships and fresh air is on offer from a Kent play scheme this August.

Nature Nuts aims to get young children reconnected to nature through outdoor play, crafts, games and animal encounters.

The fun educational programme introduces children to the wonderful world of wildlife plus all sorts of seasonal plants and activities.

Nature Nuts Summer Camp 2014 is at Coolings Nature Trail in Knockholt and runs from August 4-7.

Children aged four to eight will enjoy a wild old time every day in shaded

woodland and open grassland.

They will explore the bird hide, ponds, dens and bug hotels. There are also plenty of animals to observe, including pigs, goats, wallabies and chickens.

Drop the kids off at 8.30am and collect at 4.30pm. There is late pick-up at 6pm, by arrangement.

Children need to bring a packed lunch and beaker of water.

Camp week costs £148 per child. Schools and nurseries can also book Nature Nuts for class outings or on-site visits.

For more information and to make bookings, visit www.nature-nuts.co.uk.



Helping hands to create that perfect gift

RENAISSANCE Crafts is a family-run pottery painting studio and art gallery serving Maidstone, Medway, Malling and the surrounding areas.

We also offer a mobile service for groups and parties.

Here you can let your child create a special present for that special teacher

No experience is needed – we will give all the assistance needed to make a gift that lasts.

The studio is at 16 Starnes Court, off Union Street, Maidstone ME14 1EB.

Opening times:

- Monday 10am-5.30pm (school holidays only)
- Tuesday 10am-5.30pm
- Wednesday 10am-5.30pm
- Thursday 10am-5.30pm
- Friday 10am-5.30pm
- Saturday 10am-5pm

Feline generous? Then cat sanctuary needs your help



RHODES Minnis Cat Sanctuary holds its 43rd open day this month, on Sunday, July 20, from 11am to 4.30pm.

The sanctuary, founded in 1970 by the late-Veronica Huthwaite, cares for more than 200 discarded cats and kittens.

Many of these lovely pets are just longing for the security of a caring new home, while others are incurably timid and distrustful and will be cared for in the sanctuary for the rest of their days.

On open day, visitors will be able to

make friends with the cats and there are many other attractions including owls, tortoises, pony rides, face-painting, veterinary demonstrations, dog-agility trials, reflexology, tombola and raffles with high-value prizes.

There will be homemade refreshments with a barbecue and meringue cream teas, cakes, jams, honey and pet-related novelty items on sale.

The sanctuary is at Green Lane, Rhodes Minnis CT4 6XU. For more information, phone 01303 862243.

Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary

Seathwaite, Green Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6XU.
Tel. 01303 862243 (Between Lyminge & Stone Street B2068)
www.rhodesminnis.co.uk E mail minniscats@gmail.com Registered Charity no 262245

Invites You to Our OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 20th JULY
FROM 11am - 4.30pm

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- Tortoises • Pony Rides • Rex Cat Club Welfare and their gorgeous rescued Rex's • Raffles - Including our special 'Days Out' raffle with a top prize to go to Leeds Castle with the family! • Face Painting • Veterinary Demonstration by Burnham House Vets • Cakes, Refreshments and the Famous Meringues

COME AND MAKE FRIENDS WITH OUR RESCUED CATS
ENTRY £1.00 (CHILDREN & OAPS 50p)
AMPLE FREE PARKING

The Sanctuary currently has nearly 200 homeless cats & kittens in its care. Here are just a few longing for a new home, but we have plenty more for you to come and see:

LITTLE GINGE
Ginger and white male.
A big sooty who will get on with other cats. Ideal for a quiet home without small children.

DORIS
7 year old black & white female. Needs to be homed without other animals. Best suited to a quieter household.

SOOTY
Around 10-12 years old male. Has a lovely nature and longs to be given attention. Would make an ideal family pet.

SMOKEY
5 year old FIV positive male. A wonderfully friendly cat who loves to be made a fuss of.

All our cats are neutered, vaccinated & tested for FIV/FELV.

nature nuts
wildlife fun for kids

Children love wildlife! Since 2009 Nature Nuts has offered fun themed play sessions for kids that include something a little special - firsthand encounters with wild creatures and plants, beastly bugs, amazing natural objects, little critters, and much more. Come and join 100s of other Nature Nuts and enjoy wildlife discovery for children, with an educational twist.

**** NATURE NUTS CAMP 2014 - Summer holidays as they used to be. Fun, fresh air and friends, playing out in the woods, making stuff, exploring, learning through discovery. Suitable children aged 4.5yrs-8yrs. Amazing nature trail Knockholt, 4-7 August**

MORE INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

www.nature-nuts.co.uk | enquiry@nature-nuts.co.uk

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Contemporary Ceramic Painting is a fantastic hobby and it is suitable for all ages and abilities, no previous experience necessary.

www.renaissancecrafts.co.uk

Welcome to

Park Farm

Riding School
Est 2002

Park Farm Riding School is a small, smartly kept yard of horses and ponies ranging in size from quite small to quite large. Situated in the village of Preston within easy reach of Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and the Continent, we cater for children, offering lessons after school and on weekends, or during the afternoon for school groups.

www.parkfarmridingschool.co.uk

Park Farm
English & Riding
Park Road, Preston,
Canterbury, Kent
CT3 1HD
01227 728349

Get close to nature at county's top animal parks

YOU can enjoy park life at Kent's two most successful animal parks this summer.

Howletts Wild Animal Park, near Canterbury, promises an exciting day out for all ages. Enjoy park life as you explore wooded walkways and paths around Kent's most successful animal park, set in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Every week, throughout summer, we have something different to celebrate at Howletts. Join in with the themed self-guided trails, events and talks taking place every day throughout the summer break.

Celebrate Schools Out and National Zookeeper Week in July and join in with Primate Week, Big Cat Week and Elephant and Hoofstock Week in August.

You can also bring your herd to see our herd and meet the newest member of our African elephant family, Mirembe, as she plays in the elephant paddocks. Walk among lemurs, come face to face with lions, tigers, giant anteaters and western lowland gorillas in their glass-fronted enclosures, spot the latest and cutest new arrivals and even mimic the agile primates by trying the exciting Treetop Challenge – an obstacle course with rope-bridges and zip-wires set in the trees.

For younger adventurers, the Animal Adventure Challenge with climbing walls and wobbly walkways is bound to thrill!

Designed to be a centre of excellence for conservation, Howletts has large enclosures



filled with natural foliage that provides camouflage, shelter and privacy for the animals. It's the perfect place to witness conservation in action.

With the continuation of the popular Passport scheme – the one-day ticket that lasts all year – visitors can return as often as they wish for no extra charge and, with plenty of

new arrivals, different monthly themes and special events throughout half-terms and holidays, there will always be something new to discover.

For further information, including opening times, entry prices and special events, please visit www.aspinallfoundation.org/howletts.

At Port Lympne, meanwhile, you are being

asked to spot the cheetah cubs this summer at Kent's only safari venue while embarking on a family adventure.

Join us at Port Lympne Reserve, near Hythe, this summer to experience a unique family adventure.

Enjoy park life as you explore more than 600 acres, with far-reaching views to the coast and beyond.

Port Lympne reserve is the only wild animal park in Kent offering a unique safari experience.

Board a safari truck and be transported to The African Experience, where giraffe, black rhino, ostrich, zebra and more can be seen roaming freely as if on the plains of Africa.

Every week throughout the summer, we have something different to celebrate at Port Lympne. Join in with themed self-guided trails, events and more when you celebrate Schools Out and Big Cat Week in July.

Then, in August, get involved with Hidden Heroes, Rhino Week, Small Cat Week and World War Zoo.

Discover four on-foot zones at the reserve. Spot our cheetah cubs in Carnivore Territory, marvel at the monkeys, lemurs and western lowland gorillas on the Primate Trail, grab a snack or board a safari truck at Basecamp and say hi to the meerkats in the Discovery Zone.

For further information, including opening times, entry prices and special events, please visit www.aspinallfoundation.org/portlympne.



See if you can spot our cheetah cubs!

Plus jump aboard Kent's only safari and embark
on a unique family adventure this summer.

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@portlympnepark



KentAnimalPark

Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...

Music festival with a difference sounds good for port town

THE weekend of Friday to Sunday, July 18-20, will see the historic town of Dover play host to its first major music festival.

The key features of the festival distinguishing it from most others will be inclusivity and diversity.

Artists from all fields of music including pop, folk, blues, rock, jazz and roots will perform in a large number of indoor and outdoor venues.

In all, more than 70 performers are scheduled to play over the weekend.

The elegant and historic town hall will be home to ticketed events featuring evening performances from legends China Crisis on the Friday and Paul Jones with The Blues Band on the Saturday, both supported by local artistes.

The spacious and lovely setting of the town's Pencester Gardens with its superb views of Dover Castle will showcase free live performances from midday to 9.30pm on the Saturday and midday to 6.30pm on the Sunday, with more than 20 performances from local bands and up-and-coming artistes including Electric River and Showers Jalloh as well as dance groups and cheerleaders.



MUSICAL INTERLUDE: Pencester bandstand in Dover will take centre stage during next week's music festival

Two stages will be installed either side of the Pencester bandstand to allow music to continue uninterrupted throughout the day.

An outside bar, food outlets, traders and organisations will also

be present in the gardens.

For the younger visitors – and perhaps some older ones – we have on Saturday a circus entertainer giving free-to-all lessons on how to perform circus tricks and illusions.

There is also a children's play area.

There are two days of totally free entertainment in the picturesque Pencester Gardens.

The beautiful and historic Crabble Corn Mill will be the focal point for

folk and acoustic artistes and feature performances from Brendan Power (International Harmonica Player of the Year 2011-12), Ron Trueman-Border and Sally Ironmonger, supported by dozens of Kent's finest over all three days.

The town's Market Square and precinct areas will feature more free performances by artistes of every type from Morris dancers, cheerleaders and Appalachian clog-dancing to choirs, ukulele groups and a host of other performers.

Many of the town's pubs will also be hosting free music events throughout the weekend to show their support for the festival.

Parking will be free of charge in several of the town's car parks, but if you're planning to use public transport the festival starts when you arrive by train at Dover Priory station, just a short walk from the town centre, or by bus at Pencester Gardens in the heart of the town.

Make Dover Music Festival your weekend destination and we can promise you great music, great memories and a great weekend.

For details of all the performing artistes, the venues and how to buy tickets, please visit www.dovermusicfestival.com.

DOVER MUSIC FESTIVAL
18TH, 19TH & 20TH JULY 2014

CHINA CRISIS

Dover Town Hall - Friday 18th July - Doors 7PM

Tickets only £20

PAUL JONES AND THE BLUES BAND

Dover Town Hall - Saturday 19th July - Doors 7PM

BRENDAN POWER

Crabble Corn Mill

Friday 18th

Doors 7pm

Tickets only £7.50

SALLY IRONMONGER

Crabble Corn Mill

Saturday 19th

Doors 7pm

Tickets only £5

RON TRUEMAN BORDER

Crabble Corn Mill

Sunday 20th Doors 7pm

Tickets only £5

FREE TO ATTEND EVENTS!

<p>PENCESTER GARDENS</p> <p>ELECTRIC RIVER + 14 LOCAL BANDS!</p> <p>SHOWERS JALLOH + 8 LOCAL BANDS!</p>		<p>MARKET SQUARE</p> <p>FRI 18TH 12PM-5PM SAT 19TH 12PM-5PM</p> <p>CRABBLE CORN MILL</p> <p>SAT AND SUN 12PM-6PM</p>
<p>SAT 19TH 12PM-9:30PM</p> <p>SUN 20TH 12PM-6:30PM</p>		

DOVER Big Local

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Summertime fun time

How to make the very best of the sunniest season of all...



Water way to enjoy yourself!

MEDWAY Watersports operates all year round, offering a variety of activities for youths, adults, groups and families.

Our activities provide challenging opportunities that are both fun and educational.

Our dedicated team of instructors provide an excellent and friendly service. We reward achievements with National Governing Body Awards and certificates where appropriate, all taking place within a structured framework of safety.

Our powerboating courses are taught by Royal Yachting Association (RYA)-qualified instructors who deliver challenging and educational sessions.

Participants have the opportunity to work towards National Governing Body Qualifications.

The RYA Powerboat Scheme Levels 1 and 2 provide the key to the National Powerboat Scheme. The course provides a sound introduction to boat-handling and the associated background knowledge. The course is largely practical and there is no written exam.

For more information, email us at sails@medwaywatersports.co.uk or phone 01634 582100.

Get away from it all in your own static caravan

IMAGINE being able to go away for the weekend just because the weather forecast looks good, without having to plan ahead and without worrying about the cost.

Well, with your own caravan or chalet at Seaview Caravan Park at Leysdown-on-Sea you could do just that.

You can get away whenever you feel like it and all it will cost you is the petrol you use.

You can relax in the peace and quiet of your caravan, take the children to play on the beach, or enjoy the local nightlife with friends.

Your luxury static caravan offers many advantages over a cottage, including:

- Best prices in Kent – check our sales page with models to suit all budgets.
- Low maintenance – you can enjoy your caravan from the moment you arrive.
- Purpose-built for relaxation – fully furnished, your caravan has all your home comforts as well as beaches and attractions.

When you feel like taking a break you won't need to book ahead – just pack your bags and escape to your own seashore home.



ALL SMILES: Seaview is simply perfect

Our parks in Leysdown-on-Sea are just five minutes from miles of clean, unspoilt beaches and local amenities – it really is the ideal family getaway.

Leysdown-on-Sea, with one of the lowest rainfalls in the UK, the cleanest air quality in Kent and more than 200 hours of sunshine a month in the summer, is an ideal low-budget destination.

We have a range of competitively-priced homes for sale to suit all budgets and a host of on-site facilities, including a heated outdoor swimming pool (at Warden Bay and Seaview).

For more information about our parks and the caravans we currently have for sale, please do not hesitate to contact us for the best caravan prices around.

Place that makes you just keep going back for more

GATE House Wood Touring Park in Sevenoaks is a naturally sheltered, quiet and tranquil site that was created out of an old quarry surrounded by an embankment of trees and shrubs.

Pitches are spacious, level and free-draining.

There is a diversity of wildlife in the woods that surround the site where you can take a gentle stroll. Gate House Wood Touring Park is also an ideal base from which to explore the countryside with its many attractions.

Proprietors Dave and Karen Macklin have successfully managed other touring parks and are both seasoned caravanners with a vast experience of the needs of campers.

They look forward to welcoming back the many friends they have made from former visits to the site and also look forward to welcoming newcomers so they too may find out for themselves exactly why Gate House Wood Touring Park has people returning year after year.



20% OFF PITCH FEE



ENJOY A MINI BREAK AT GATE HOUSE WOOD TOURING PARK

Ford Lane, Wrotham Heath, Sevenoaks, Kent TN157SD

www.gatehousewoodtouringpark.com

01732 843 062

Conditions:- Must pre-book pitch 2 nights or more.

Deposit required to secure booking and discount. Extra Adults & Children charged at normal rate. Please quote **KENT ON SUNDAY 20% DISCOUNT OFFER**

Valid only during June, Sept & Oct 2014



Medway Watersports operates all year round, offering a variety of activities on the water for youths, adults, groups and families

Powerboat sessions and courses are also available along with river trips.

Contact us for more information:

sails@medwaywatersports.co.uk

01634 582100 www.medwaywatersports.co.uk

We are running taster sessions during the school holidays as well as dinghy and canoe - kayak recognised courses.



Seaview and Warden Bay - Premier Caravan Parks

Imagine being able to go away for the weekend just because the weather forecast looks good, without having to plan ahead and without worrying about the cost?

Well, with your own caravan or chalet at one of our parks, you could do just that!

NOW OPEN 10 MONTHS!
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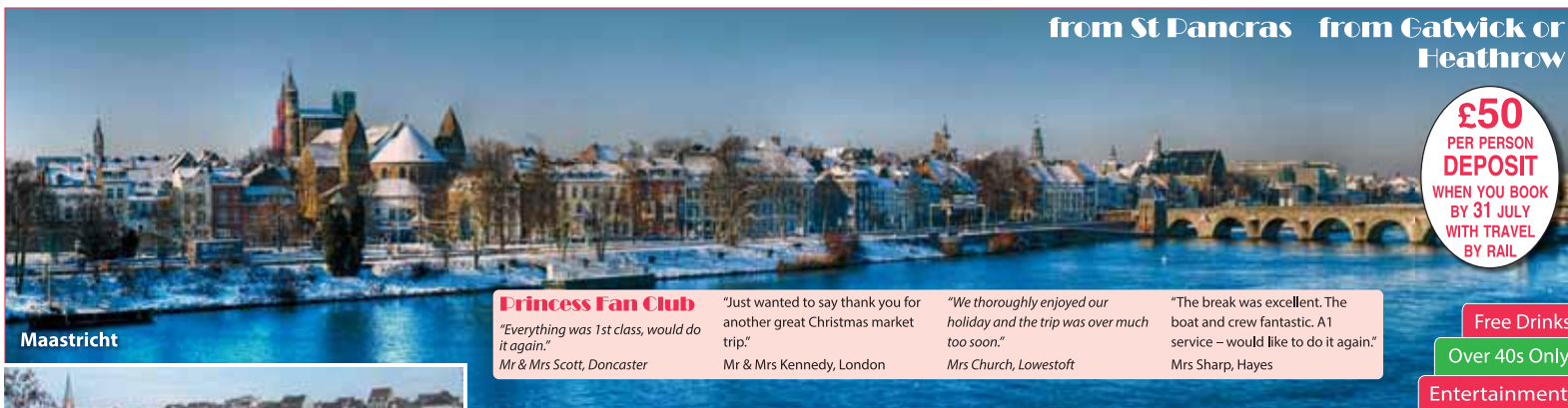
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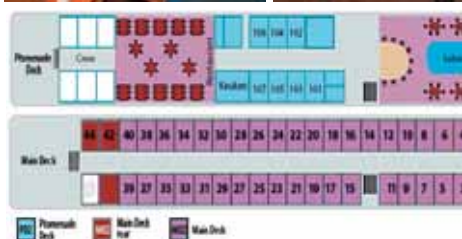
Maastricht

Princess Fan Club
"Everything was 1st class, would do it again."
Mr & Mrs Scott, Doncaster

"Just wanted to say thank you for another great Christmas market trip."
Mr & Mrs Kennedy, London

"We thoroughly enjoyed our holiday and the trip was over much too soon."
Mrs Church, Lowestoft

"The break was excellent. The boat and crew fantastic. A1 service – would like to do it again."
Mrs Sharp, Hayes



GN Voyages is exclusively chartering the mps Princess again to bring you a great selection of river cruises. She will deliver us to a host of must-see destinations with good food, great hospitality and plenty of fun along the way served up by the crew and our team on board.

Accommodating just 100 guests in comfort and style, there is a cosy lounge-bar, and a modern restaurant with buffet and table service - both have panoramic views. Dinner is a real highlight with 4 courses served at your table each night. At the Captain's Dinner enjoy 5 courses.

Three cabin grades are available - main deck rear, main deck, and promenade deck - all are outside with window, two single beds, private facilities, TV, telephone and heating. All the decks - main, promenade and sundeck are accessible by stairs or stairlift. The large sundeck has chairs for all guests and a large canopy.

Semi-All-Inclusive

Almost everything on board is included: beer, wine by the glass, choice of 2 Dutch spirits and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar. PLUS: buffet breakfast and lunch; morning and afternoon tea/coffee and cakes; dinner served at your table and late night snacks.

Travel to the Princess

Travel is by mid-morning Eurostar from St Pancras (Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels, journey time is around 2 hours. For the Rhine cruise we continue from Brussels by train to Cologne. Alternatively, flights are possible from Gatwick to Cologne (Rhine) and Heathrow or Gatwick to Brussels (Christmas Cruises) - supplement may apply. We then take you to the Princess by coach or taxi. The journey home is just as easy.

All cruises include

- Return Eurostar rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet, or return flights (see above)
- Semi-all-inclusive cruise on the mps Princess
- Main Deck rear, outside, twin bed cabin with private facilities (grade MR2). No single cabins available
- Entertainment
- Embarkation & departure transfers

Note: Prices subject to cabin and/or flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

Rhine in Flames River Cruise

5 days semi-all-inclusive 2 October, 2014

This fun-packed cruise visits historic riverside towns including **Andernach**, **Rudesheim**, **Koblenz** and **Boppard**, where you'll see the Rhine in Flames festival. Originally held to celebrate the grape harvest, this spectacular pyrotechnics show features an illuminated flotilla of riverboats and curtains of fire, bathing the scene in a magical glow.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Cologne or flights with luggage from Gatwick - supp't may apply • 4-night semi all inclusive cruise sharing a twin bed rear outside cabin with private facilities & TV - upgrades available • Entertainment • Embarkation & departure transfers

FROM **£649PP**
Quote RH10-K05



Belgium, Holland & Valkenburg Christmas Party

4 days semi-all-inclusive 21 November, 2014

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in: **Valkenburg**, with its unique Christmas Market Caves; **Hasselt**, a charming Belgian town with a festive Winterland; **Maastricht**, home of world famous musician Andre Rieu; and **Brussels**, the Belgian capital. PLUS an optional visit to **Aachen** Christmas Market and the Lindt Chocolate Factory outlet in Germany.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Brussels or return flights from Gatwick or Heathrow - supp't may apply • 3-night semi all inclusive cruise sharing a twin bed rear outside cabin with private facilities & TV - upgrades available • Entertainment • Embarkation & departure transfers

FROM **£379PP**
Quote PC11-3-K05



Bruges & Valkenburg Christmas Markets

5 days semi-all-inclusive 24 November, 2014

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in: **Valkenburg** with its unique Christmas Caves; beautiful **Bruges** with its festive atmosphere and markets; **Hasselt**, a charming Belgian town with a festive Winterland; lovely **Ghent**; and **Brussels**, the Belgian capital. GN Voyages is exclusively chartering the popular mps Princess again with great hospitality and entertainment on board.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Brussels or return flights from Gatwick or Heathrow - supp't may apply • 4-night semi all inclusive cruise sharing a twin bed Main Deck outside cabin with private facilities & TV - upgrades available • Entertainment • Embarkation & departure transfers
Note: Free cabin upgrade is from Main Deck Rear grade MR2 to Main Deck Midship or Forward grade MD2, usually £529pp.

FROM **£479PP**
Quote PC11-4-K05



Christmas Markets Spectacular - Bruges, Brussels & Lille

4 days semi-all-inclusive 28 November & 1 December, 2014

Join us for a fun-packed river cruise taking-in three great Christmas Markets. In **Lille**, Northern France, the main square is transformed into a winter wonderland with a giant Christmas tree, ferris wheel and dozens of stalls. **Bruges** with a wonderful festive atmosphere and markets is just a short stroll from the ship's mooring and you'll have full day and night to enjoy this Belgian gem. In the Belgian capital, **Brussels**, the Christmas Market has been hailed as 'Europe's most original' by British tour operators.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Brussels or return flights from Gatwick or Heathrow - supp't may apply • 3-night semi all inclusive cruise sharing a twin bed rear outside cabin with private facilities & TV - upgrades available • Entertainment • Embarkation & departure transfers

FROM **£379PP**
Quote PC11-5/PC12-1-K05



By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

1st Drive

Peugeot 108

Price:	£8,245
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Up

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KENT LIFE

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Peugeot's city chic baby

French marque shows how urban motoring can be smart, fun, affordable and very connected with the all-new 108 city slicker

PEUGEOT'S newest and smallest model is, perversely, the French marque's best evidence to date of its intent to move upmarket.

The new 108 (from £8,245) replaces the 107, emphasises Peugeot's other recent declaration that all model numbers will now end in an eight and is a posher and far more grown-up city runabout than its predecessor.

The car's design director, Ivo Groen, avoids describing them as chalk and cheese but still comes up with a neat cheese analogy.

"The 107 is the kind of cheese you would have with a baguette. The 108 is a cheese you would like to eat with a nice glass of red wine," he said.

Of course, like the 107, the new 108 is also one of a trio of three- and five-door city-car clones developed jointly by Toyota, Peugeot and Citroën to offset the skewed development costs of creating a small car to pass strict crash tests while earning similarly small profits per unit.

The three sisters have more distinctive looks to set them apart this time, and Peugeot's upmarket ambition is clear from the neatly-crafted version of its latest corporate grille and smart detailing front and back – it's the classiest job of the trio.

It is also clear that Peugeot is making much of the option to have the car with an electric roll-back open roof in the style of the Fiat 500 and Citroën DS3.

Citroën is doing the same with its Aircave (geddit?) versions, while Toyota is not – at least, not for now.

Peugeot calls its roll-back version Top! and the fabric roof is available in black, grey or a purple, with the cheapest variant from £10,345 – just £850 more than its hard-roof equivalent.

Admittedly, the mechanism does rob some rear headroom in the otherwise impressively spacious cabin but, with its neat wind-deflector automatically in place, open-top life is pleasant, with only the mildest ruffling and extra noise at city speeds – faster and you'll have to crank up



LITTLE MOVER: Peugeot's new 108 is the French carmaker's smallest model but could prove a big success

the sound system.

Indeed, this is where the 108's Pygmalion veneer slips; as the revs and speed climb, so the slightly thrashy engines spoil the fun a little.

There's a choice of two, both petrol three-cylinders with five-speed manual boxes as standard, and neither will cost you any road tax – CO₂ emissions are below the 100g/km threshold.

One is a heavily-revised 998cc unit from the 107 and offering 68bhp and

an official combined 68.9mpg, while the other is Peugeot's new 1.199cc engine offering 82bhp and 65.7mpg respectively.

It is fair to say the 108 also doesn't match the driving fun of the rival VW Up against which Peugeot has priced its car so keenly: the gearshift and clutch action on both powertrains is vague and there's a definite lean on the bends that doesn't inspire the same confidence as the VW or Hyundai's i10.

But a strong counter argument is: does this really matter when the overall package is so strong?

Apart from the Top! option there are a squillion customisation permutations, a funky dashboard with big touchscreen standard on most versions and a bigger boot – 196 litres versus the 107's 139 – made even better by a clever parcel cover that clings to the tailgate glass as it is opened. City cars have just grown up.



Other view...

the Petrolhead

I'll repeat what I said about the CI: heaven save us from gutless and tiddly Noddy cars. Like disasters, they seem to come in threes.

She says

This little Peugeot looks really classy and you really must consider the Top! – £850 is not really much money for open-top motoring

the Eco-warrior

Small cars like this will help solve our eco problems. Most of the time, this is really all the car most of us ever need.

Get ready for happy
Savings to smile about



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai Veloster Turbo 1.6 T-GDi: Urban 30.4 (9.3), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 40.9 (6.9), CO₂ Emissions 157 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.
*Model shown is the Veloster Turbo 1.6 T-GDi at £22,565 inc. Matt paint at £565. On the road (OTR) price shown includes VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. Sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. *5 Year Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

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Versatility, velocity and value adds up to Velostar coupé



HEAD-TURNER: Hyundai's Velostar tries to offer better value than its rivals with some added extras, including an extra door – good for buyers with children

Korean brand's reputation for value, with one of the best warranties, upstages a no-nonsense coupé heritage, upheld by the striking Veloster, writes **Steve Loader**

HYUNDAI left the coupé sector in 2009 after a series of models, latterly delivering style plus fun, to go with the marque's familiar value.

However, with the Korean brand then soaring high in the UK public eye through its mainstream 'i' models, it was no surprise when Hyundai returned to the glamour of this sector in 2012.

And it did so with the Veloster by trying to offer better value than perceived rivals like the racy VW Scirocco or three-door coupé versions of standard hatchbacks such as the eye-catching Vauxhall Astra GTC.

With the Veloster (from £17,995), though, you get arresting looks plus an extra side door for easy access to the rear seats, high specification and the marque's usual five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty.

That additional door – kerbside for rear passengers – is a winner for buyers with young children who might want a racy motor but don't want the hassle of tipping front seats or leaning right into the back to belt up their kids.

It's also a unique proposition on the UK market; the nearest rival is the MINI Clubman, which also has a single rear side door but on the wrong side – who wants their children exiting on the opposite side to the pavement?

The Veloster's extra door is nicely integrated into the car's profile and, since you never view both sides together, you'll never spot the difference anyway.

The overall style of the car is low-slung with a rakish rear roofline that, as in any coupé, compromises rear headroom, while legroom is also fairly tight. Still, there is a decent-size boot and ultimate load area with seats folded and the Veloster has much else to recommend inside, too; Hyundai continues its rise in interior quality and design.

Fit and finish is worthy of a premium marque, although it would be nice to see some real brushed alloy highlights rather than coloured plastic versions.

The big standard-fit central information/entertainment screen is well thought out and dashboard controls are logical and nicely to hand, so the car offers coupé style without compromising practicality – canny buyers will like that, in

Hyundai Velostar 1.6 T-GDI Turbo

Price:	£22,000
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£175 (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Scirocco

Kent dealers

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Canterbury	01227 817555
Maidstone	01622 624070
Hyundai	
Tun Wells	01892 520026
Medway	01634 408408

conjunction with a tempting price and that Hyundai warranty.

You also get lots for your money: the standard 138bhp 1.6 GDI model (£17,000) comes with alloys, rear spoiler, tyre

pressure monitoring, eco drive indicator, reversing sensors and more that you wouldn't expect.

This coupé also keeps its composure and a flat stance on corners, and only rather lifeless steering detracts from a decent drive.

But 0-62mph in 9.7 seconds means it doesn't quite have the oomph to match its looks or name: Veloster implies, well, velocity.

This cues the model on test here: the flagship T-GDI Turbo. It asks for a big jump in price to £22,000 but does trim that 0-62mph sprint time to 8.4 seconds and, more importantly, has the beefier chassis set-up to make best use of the added power.

The turbocharging is particularly noticeable for the low-down punch it delivers, while tweaked dampers make the car more taut-handling and closer to British and European tastes.

It also looks more arresting than its everyday sister thanks to more aggressive front and rear ends – including an eye-catching central twin exhaust – bigger alloys, stealth fighter-style matt paint finish option, Turbo nameplate, longer and wider rear spoiler with integrated LED brake light and bespoke leather seats – also featuring 'Turbo' on the front ones.

Despite its sporting upsurge, though, the Turbo SE offers an official 40.9mpg on the combined cycle, while that third door still gives an edge over rivals.

FirstGEAR

Motoring news



New-look Passat

VOLKSWAGEN was happy to claim its 2011 Passat was 'new', but it was clearly an unimaginative reworking of its 2004 predecessor.

However, the all-new Passat range due on sale in late 2014 looks far more elegant and will launch new technologies and engines.

Reversing the trend in family models like this, it will also be slightly shorter than before while offering more cabin space due to a longer wheelbase.



Pulsar a new star?

EIGHT years after fleeing the family hatchback market, Nissan re-enters this hard-fought sector in the autumn with the all-new Pulsar, priced from £15,995.

Its distant predecessor, the Almera, failed badly, but the Japanese marque has been re-energised by the success of its Qashqai and Juke crossovers, plus the clever Note mini-MPV, and fancies a rematch against the likes of the VW Golf and Ford Focus. The well-equipped Pulsar also looks good value.



Loadluggers are tops

FIAT'S Doblò Cargo van has won the prestigious Fleet Van Of The Year award at the 2014 Motor Transport Awards.

Judges praised not only the vehicle but also keen pricing (from £13,055) plus a big dealer network to cater to all repair, service and after-sales needs.

The win is the latest in a list claimed by the Doblò Cargo, including International Van Of The Year following its launch in 2011.



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for New Premises Licence

We University for Creative Arts hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR for grant of a new premises license to permit the following licensable activities.

Sale of Alcohol (10.00 – 24.00 daily) Regulated Entertainment (10.00 – 24.00 daily) and Late Night Refreshment (23.00 – 24.00 daily)

In respect of the premises situated at University for the Creative Arts, Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent ME1 1DZ. A Copy of the application can be inspected at the Licensing Department, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during office hours or on our website at www.medway.gov.uk/licensing.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Unit at the Council Offices or by e-mail to licensing@medway.gov.uk by 2nd August 2014 or by telephone 01634 337107 after which date no objections will be considered.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Date 4th July 2014

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant,
8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for New Premises Licence

I Chris Williamson give notice that I am applying to Canterbury City Council for the grant of a premises licence for 3 Canterbury Road, Whitstable CT5 4HJ.

The licence is to provide for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (On Sales) and off sales for consumption away from the premises. Licence times applied for are 11:00 -24:00 Mon - Sat and 12:00-23:00 on Sundays (These are maximum times and unlikely to be used to the full) I have not applied for Entertainment or Music licence. The premises is intended to be run as a Micropub with seating for approx 15, plus standing.

Any person or relevant authority wishing to submit representation(s) should do so in writing to Council Offices, Military Rd, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW giving in detail the grounds of objection before 01.08.2014. Any objection must relate to one (or more) of the four Licensing Objectives. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests anonymity.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application. A person found guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5000.

Notice of application for the Grant of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Asiana Cuisine Ltd has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Grant of Premises Licence for SALE OF ALCOHOL AND LATE NIGHT REFRESHMENT ONLY SEVEN DAYS A WEEK 12 MIDDAY TO 12 MIDNIGHT for the premises ASIANA THAI AND INDIAN situated at 31 BANK STREET, ASHFORD, KENT TN23 1DQ.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN21 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by: 05/08/2014

Dated this 8th Day of July 2014
The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale (£5000) under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

David Armstrong trading as Armstrong Haulage of 11 Medway Road, Crayford, Dartford, Kent DA1 4PN is applying for a licence to use Albion Parade, Gravesend, Kent SA12 2RN as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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PLANNING

Folkestone

Hythe & Romney Marsh

Shepway District Council



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0761/SH - Road of Remembrance Folkestone Kent - Installation of 20 individual stone plaques with engraved inscription on land to north of Road of Remembrance.

Y14/0759/SH - 24 Bouverie Road West Folkestone Kent CT20 2SZ - Change of use and conversion from existing dwelling to four self contained flats together with external alterations including erection of a part single storey part four storey rear extension and installation of a replacement shopfront.

Y14/0341/SH* - Land at Hurricane Way Hawkinge Kent - Erection of 21 dwellings (class C3) together with associated access and landscaping.

Y14/0762/SH - The Old Vicarage Vicarage Road Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Crown reduction back to previous reduction points of a Sycamore and two Holm Oak trees, all situated within a conservation area.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Draft Farmsteads Assessment Guidance for Tunbridge Wells Borough Supplementary Planning Document

Public Consultation

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is currently consulting on the draft Farmsteads Assessment Guidance for Tunbridge Wells Borough Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012: Public consultation commences on **Monday 14 July 2014** and runs for six weeks until **Friday 22 August 2014**.

We will be holding a drop-in session at which Council officers will be available to discuss any aspect of the consultation draft in more detail with interested parties. This will be held on Monday 28 July between 2pm and 7pm, in Committee Room B at the Town Hall in Tunbridge Wells.

The consultation draft Supplementary Planning Document and response form can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/>, consultations, or you can respond directly online at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>. The documents can also be viewed at the following locations for those without access to a computer:

- **Tunbridge Wells Gateway**, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Thursdays; and 9am-1.30pm on Saturdays
- **Weald Information Centre**, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HF, open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- **All libraries** in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

Representations can be returned as follows:

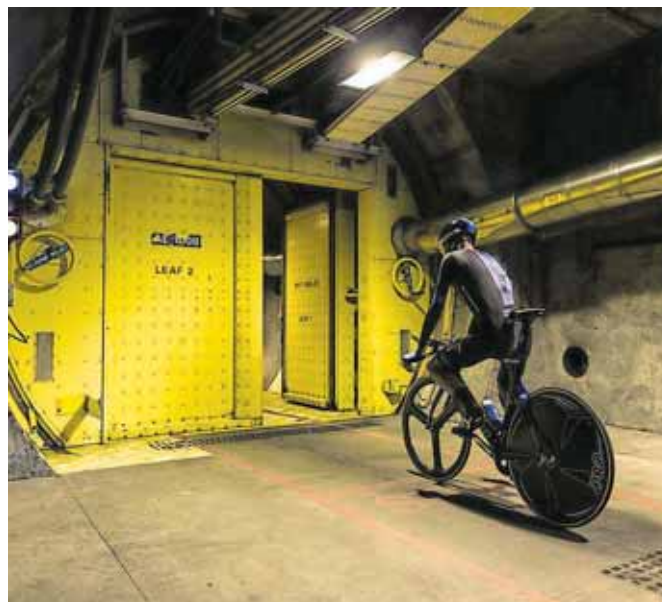
- 1) Online at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>
- 2) By e-mail to planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk (using the editable response form)
- 3) By post to planning policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS (using a printed response form)

Representations must be made in writing (including electronically) and be received by **midnight on Friday 22 August 2014** at the addresses specified in (1) to (3) above.



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Champion enters record books despite early Tour de France exit

Before his failed attempt to retain the cycling crown he won last year, Chris Froome became the first and only man to pedal under the English Channel

CHRIS Froome's Tour de France came to a sorry end when he crashed out in the fifth stage between Ypres and Arenberg Porte du Hainaut this week.

It was the British cyclist's third accident in two days and his damaged wrist was enough to make him climb into the Team Sky car and call it a day, bringing to an end his bid to retain the crown he won last year.

However, there was some good news for Froome this summer: he became the first man to cycle under the sea from Kent to France.

The Team Sky leader's journey from the Eurotunnel terminal at Folkestone to Calais was part of a publicity exercise by Jaguar, which released a short film entitled Team Sky – Cycling Under The Sea.

Froome rode through the tunnel at a training pace, completing the world-first ride in a time of about 55 minutes and reached speeds of up to 65 kilometres per hour.

Jaguar and Team Sky began discussions more than six months ago with Eurotunnel, which is celebrating its 20th year in 2014, to make the cycling challenge possible.

The service tunnel is one of the highest-security sites in the UK and France.

Froome said: "Cycling under the sea was an incredible experience. Opportunities to become the first person in the world to achieve these kind of

feats are extremely rare nowadays, especially as a pro cyclist.

"To become the first person ever to cycle through the Eurotunnel was right up there with some of the most iconic rides I've ever done – this must have been one of very few 'world first' rides left."

Jaguar's Mark Cameron said: "One of our core beliefs at Jaguar is themed around #KeepPushing – for new technology, experiences, goals and achievements.

"This is perhaps the ultimate expression of this philosophy, completing a feat that no one has ever done before or is likely to repeat.

"We're delighted for Chris to have had this opportunity and I'd like to echo his thanks to both Team Sky and all at Eurotunnel who made it possible."

John Keefe, of Eurotunnel, was equally impressed with the results.

"The Eurotunnel is an incredible, unique piece of engineering on par with the Golden Gate Bridge or Sydney Opera House," he said.

"The problem, of course, is that no one gets to see it, so we were delighted when Jaguar Land Rover came to us with this ground-breaking request."

As an official supplier to Team Sky since its inception in 2010, Jaguar has supported the team's back-to-back victorious campaigns in 2012 and 2013, when the company supplied Team Sky with a fleet of high-performance Jaguar XF Sportbrakes.



PEDAL POWER: Froome emerges from the French side of the Eurotunnel, completing the journey in 55 minutes

NTW

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RIDE ON: The Big Brands Bash will allow the public unprecedented behind-the-scenes access at the circuit

Monster opportunity for motorsport fans to really get up close and personal

ONE of the most festive sporting weekends of the year will be kick-started by a Monster Energy Fans' Thursday when the MCE Insurance British Superbike Championship returns to Kent this month for the Big Brands Bash.

For the first time, the circuit will be fully open on the Thursday afternoon and spectators will have unprecedented behind-the-scenes access as preparations for the weekend ahead are concluded.

Gates open from midday – the same time the huge Brands Hatch campsite opens its doors – and access is free of charge.

The Monster Energy rig at Clark Curve will host exclusive interviews with MCE BSB riders, offering all the latest gossip from the paddock ahead of the weekend.

And the pit lane will be accessible to the public from 3pm for two hours to enable fans to see the teams and riders up close, with opportunities for autographs and photos.

The circuit itself will then be open from 5pm-6pm for an official track walk for fans around the classic 2.3-mile Grand Prix layout.

The Kentagon restaurant and bar and other food and drink units will be open all afternoon and into the night.

MCE BSB series director Stuart Higgs said: "We're really pleased to announce the Monster Energy Fans' Thursday will form part of the Big Brands Bash this year.

"There will be a party atmosphere all weekend and a



fantastic programme of racing, and it will be great to kick it off by offering fans the chance to mingle with their heroes and access parts of the circuit they may never have experienced before."

“There will be a party atmosphere and it will be great to offer fans chance to mingle with their heroes”

The event gets formally under way on track on Friday with the opening MCE BSB free practice sessions.

Kent's Shane 'Shakey' Byrne, pictured above in the white top, will bid for glory on home turf against contenders including 2014

race-winners Josh Brookes and the resurgent Ryuichi Kiyonari.

The party weekend continues into Saturday's MCE BSB qualifying day, when double World Superbike champion James Toseland headlines the campsite music stage in the evening, with admission free of charge to all valid MCE BSB ticket-holders.

Weekend and camping tickets for the MCE British Superbike round at Brands Hatch from Thursday to Saturday, July 17-19, are available from £51. Children under 13 go free.

All three days take place on the Grand Prix circuit, with a programme of support races and two MCE BSB races on the Sunday.

To book tickets, visit www.brands Hatch.co.uk or phone 0843 453 9000.

Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas join Raoul for dinner

PEMBURY racing-driver Raoul Owens has enjoyed an evening in the company of the Williams Martini Racing FIA Formula One World Championship team.

Owens was there for a charity dinner at the squad's Oxfordshire headquarters.

Hosted at the Grove HQ by Sir Frank Williams and his daughter Claire, deputy team principal, the exclusive event during the build-up to the British Grand Prix at Silverstone was held to help raise awareness of, and funds for, the Spinal Injuries Association.

Owens, who is on the path towards F1 in the Formula Renault 2.0 Northern European Cup (NEC), in which he competes with the Mark Burdett Motorsport team, was joined at the dinner by his race engineer Andy Miller – former operations director at Stewart Grand Prix and director of racing at Jaguar F1.

Seated at a table alongside Williams Martini Racing Grand Prix drivers Felipe Massa and Valtteri Bottas, he was also joined by the team's official test and reserve driver Felipe Nasr and Williams F1 development driver Susie Wolff.

"It really was a great experience – it's not often someone gets the

chance to go to a Formula One factory and enjoy a charity dinner," said Owens.

"It was fantastic to meet the drivers and members of the team. Andy [Miller] and I sat at a table with Felipe Massa, Valtteri Bottas, Felipe Nasr and Susie Wolff, so that was really good and very enjoyable.

"Being able to look around the factory was great and it was really nice to meet people from Williams, who were all fantastic.

"Having the opportunity to see the amazing history of the team, too, was pretty special – Williams is obviously one of the oldest teams in Formula One and has had so much success over the years.

"The whole evening was very interesting and great to be involved in."

Owens's next outing in Formula Renault 2.0 NEC will come at the end of the month when the one-make championship visits Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium for the fourth event of the 2014 season on Friday and Saturday, July 25-26.

Before then, however, he was due to join the blue-riband Eurocup Formula Renault 2.0 series for its visit to the Nürburgring in Germany this weekend.



DINNER DATES: Raoul Owens, centre, with Felipe Nasr and Susie Wolff

Northeast ton fires Kent win

KENT completed only their third LV= County Championship Division Two win of the summer on Thursday, the highlight being Sam Northeast's first century in the competition since 2012.

The last-innings target of 304 set by bottom-of-the-table Leicestershire was far from insubstantial and at 110-3 Kent were in danger of defeat.

However, a stand of 116 between Northeast, who finished unbeaten on 112, and Brendan Nash (53) eased any such fears.

Kent closed on 306-4 to wrap up a six-wicket win and allow them to take home 22 points from Leicester.

Earlier, the home side had been bowled out for 217 in their first innings, Mitchell Claydon proving pick of the Kent bowlers with 5-77.

He then struck with the bat, his 77 being the top score in Kent's 302.

It was Leicestershire's second innings that ensured the game would be a genuine contest.

Their 388 was down largely to Joshua Cobb's 137 and Robert Taylor's 98. It was to no avail.

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